

**Curriculum Committee Minutes
March 4, 1997**

Present: Bartanen, Bruce, Fields, Fikes, Hooper, Kline, Lupher, Mehlhaf, Neshyba, Proehl, Tomlin (chair), Valentine (sec), Washburn. VISITORS: Finney, Lentz (for Morgan)

Meeting called to order at 12:05 p.m.; minutes of 2/25/97 meeting approved as posted.

Society Core Subcommittee Report: Two courses are being considered for inclusion in the core.

ENVS 110 Introduction to Environmental Studies

The subcommittee had some majors concerns about including this course in the Society Core. These questions could not be effectively addressed until the faculty member who will teach the course is identified. Consideration tabled until then.

CSOC 200 Cultural Anthropology

Subcommittee unanimously recommended approval of CSOC 200 for core inclusion.

ACTION **M/S/P approval of CSOC 200 for inclusion in the Society Core.**

Physics Review Subcommittee Report: The committee has not met since the last Curriculum Committee meeting.

Academic Standards Committee: John Finney, representing the Academic Standards Committee, met with the Curriculum Committee to discuss the transfer of non-collegiate activity for activity credit at UPS. There is a movement in higher education to accept such activity for credit, but UPS has long expected classroom work at accredited institutions as the basis for consideration for transfer credit. Finney was not asking for a policy change, but asking for the Committee's opinion on possible exceptions based on petitions to the Academic Standards Committee. One student has made an especially strong appeal to the Academic Standards Committee, showing the comparable nature of their experience to PE 133 at UPS. Questions as to the acceptability of a wide variety experiences and how these might be evaluated were discussed. The committee made no recommendations, but Finney will report on our discussion to the Academic Standards Committee.

University Accreditation: John Finney met with the Curriculum Committee to discuss the approaching assessment and accreditation of the University (1999). More importance will be placed on the University's self-study and ongoing compliance with standards set by accreditation agencies. The federal government has been pressuring accreditation agencies to be more effective in their assessments of educational institutions, resulting in the creation of higher standards and the emphasis on self-study. In particular, Standard Two of the Accreditation Handbook emphasizes the importance of an institution's methods of evaluating their "Educational Program Planning and Assessment". How can an institution routinely assess it's success in achieving its stated educational mission and use the assessment to improve their program? Finney stated his desire that the Curriculum Committee be involved in addressing the requirements of Standard Two and that a subcommittee might be appointed to examine how this might be done. In the long term, the committee might provide leadership in implementing ongoing assessment to improve student education at UPS. There was discussion of how to assess effectiveness besides standardized tests and additional internal testing. It was observed that UPS is in the process of extensive self-assessment, and that it might be asked how we can formalize this process as well as using information from departmental reviews to address the accreditation standards.

Meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Valentine