

Curriculum Committee Minutes November 27, 1996

Present: K. Bartanen, H. Bruce, R. Fields, T. Fikes, D. Lupher, C. Mehlhaff, S. Neshyba, G. Proehl, G. Tomlin, M. Valentine, C. Washburn

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 by chair, George Tomlin.

Approval of the minutes of the November 20, 1996 meeting was postponed.

Announcements

1. George Tomlin announced the members of the subcommittee to evaluate the proposal for an Environmental Studies minor. They are George Tomlin (chair), Tom Fikes, Heather Bruce, and K. Bartanen.
2. George Tomlin suggested that the committee should move quickly to be ready to act on the Communications I course proposal and the proposal regarding the study abroad at the University of Limburg.
3. George Tomlin announced that the departmental review materials from the Physics Department would be available to the Physics subcommittee sometime after the Thanksgiving break, and that no major changes in the curriculum were expected.
4. Carrie Washburn distributed the Administrative Curriculum Action report for September/October 1996.
5. Carrie Washburn distributed pages 94-95 of the 1981-82 Bulletin, the last UPS Bulletin in which an Interdisciplinary Studies major was described.

Internship Program

Mike Valentine reported on the evaluation of the changes to the Internship Guidelines. Two changes had been proposed:

1. to allow junior as well as senior students to be eligible for internships (other eligibility criterion such as GPA apply as well)
2. to add a statement to the effect that suggested guidelines for credit assignment would be distributed to faculty sponsors (the guidelines would only be suggestions; supervising faculty would still be free to assign credit as they see fit within the current credit assignment parameters).

M/S/P To change 2. (a) under Eligibility to read "must have junior or senior standing and a GPA of 2.5 or higher", and to change the sentence Credit, 2. to read "Where variable credit options are allowed, the department or school will supply specify the criteria applied for each variant. Suggested guidelines for variable credit options will be distributed to faculty internship sponsors as part of the application process."

Interdisciplinary Major Discussion, cont.

The discussion of a student's request for an interdisciplinary major continued, and centered around the question, What should we do with these sorts of proposals in general? Whereas it would normally be within the scope of the Curriculum Committee's jurisdiction to approve new majors, it was recognized that the interdisciplinary major posed unique problems. First, some concern was raised as to whether a proposal for a new major had even been made; the student's proposal was for a particular interdisciplinary major, not for the addition of a new major to the Bulletin. Members of the Interdisciplinary Major subcommittee reported that Mike Veseth, a faculty advocate for the student's request, suggested that the Curriculum Committee consider the process he outlines for the specific student request as guidelines for

the Interdisciplinary Studies major in general. Second, some discussion ensued as to whether deliberations about the adoption of an Interdisciplinary Studies major should include a larger proportion of the faculty than that represented by the Curriculum Committee. Third, there was discussion as to whether the Faculty Bylaws actually gave the Curriculum Committee the authority to make a decision regarding the addition of an Interdisciplinary Studies major to the University's offerings; it was pointed out that there was potential ambiguity in what was actually covered by Article V, section 6 B,b, 5, of the Bylaws. Various means of bringing the issue to the Faculty were entertained, and it was agreed that the discussion regarding Interdisciplinary Majors should continue at future meetings

Meeting adjourned at 9:00.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas G. Fikes