

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MINUTES

31 January 1996 (Wednesday)

Misner Room

Present: Barnett, Bartanen, Clifford, Cousens, R. Fields, Jackson, Kerrick, Kline, Matthews, Merz (Chair), Morgan, Neshyba, Orloff, Tomlin, Valentine, Washburn

Absent: Magnus, Paris. [Note: Rao is no longer on the committee.]

Merz began the meeting at 8:07 a.m.

Minutes. The committee M/S/P approval of the minutes for the meeting of 24 January 1996.

Announcements. Morgan commented that the 1996-97 Class Schedule is about to go back to departments for final revisions before its submission to the printer; the schedule includes around twelve courses requiring approval before the schedule goes to the printer. Merz reminded the committee that new or altered courses proposed as part of departmental curriculum reviews could come forward first; we have the option of approving parts of a review package at different times.

Washburn announced that the department chair intends to request an extension to next year of the Physics and 3-2 Engineering review.

Subcommittee reports

CENTER FOR WRITING AND LEARNING. After distributing documents for reference, Morgan commended Julie Neff Lippman and the Center staff for "a well-prepared report" and expressed appreciation for Lippman's meeting with the subcommittee in December. Morgan passed along Lippman's findings that current students are better in terms of study skills but show by way of freshman test data a trend of decline in the number of students reading at grade level or above.

ACTION **Morgan M/S/P that the Center for Writing and Learning review be accepted as presented. (Note: This motion incorporates the provision that as of next year the *University Bulletin* will indicate that Learning Center 110 - Living in America is open only to international students.)**

STUDY ABROAD. Matthews reported that the subcommittee's work last term included a meeting with Jannie Meisberger. Subcommittee members reviewed the mission statement and self-study answers, as well as internal mechanisms for routine review of various programs. The subcommittee paid special attention to programs in which the University participates: ILACA and IES/IAS. The documents provided by Meisberger were thorough.

ACTION **Matthews M/S/P acceptance of the Study Abroad report.**

MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTER SCIENCE. Barnett distributed reference documents, including the proposed forms for the contract major in Mathematics and the contract major in Computer Science, and called attention to handwritten adjustments such as the statements limiting to nine units the number of units in Mathematics for the Math major and the number of units in Computer Science for the CSci major. During the past week members of the committee and the subcommittee have met or corresponded with each other and with John Riegsecker, chair of the department. The contract majors aim first of all at encouraging students to take responsibility for their own education; another objective of the contract majors is to establish appropriate associations across disciplines and across campus. The department does not anticipate that a student as a rule will use all of the units allowed; some students will do the major in eight or nine units, some in eleven or twelve units, and so forth (Jackson later stated that he envisions a contract as nine or ten courses, including supporting courses.)

ACTION **Barnett M/S/P approval of the contract major in Mathematics and the**

contract major in Computer Science, with (1) inclusion of changes already agreed upon informally by the department and the subcommittee; (2) added wording, as follows, on the contract form under the section labeled "Supporting Courses" -- List the elective courses, with department and course numbers, that you will be taking to prepare yourself best for the goals described above; and (3) inclusion of the following provision in each set of major requirements -- Units contracted for the major, including supporting courses, can include no more than 14 units in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. (Note: The vote on this motion included one abstention.)

In discussion Tomlin asked whether the contracts would give advisors more influence and students less. Cousens asked if the contract would be binding to an extent that would limit students' intellectual flexibility. Orloff stated that advisors have a great deal of influence already, Clifford wondered if "individualized major" might be a better label, and Kerrick opined that we bring up worries that are unwarranted. Jackson reminded that the contract is a flexible document, with changes available anytime. Barnett added that indeed the contract is, in words expressed yesterday by Cousens, "a commitment to a noncommittal major"; but changes require the approval of each of the three members of a student's major committee. Clifford stated that changes in major requirements currently occur by acts of department chairs. In response to Morgan's inquiry about when students would negotiate a contract, Matthews and Jackson said that students would do so at the time of declaring a major, likely the sophomore year.

Barnett clarified that the major involves no hidden units in the form of introductory course work prior to the five required upper division courses. Conversation with Riegsecker established that most students majoring in Mathematics enter the University ready to take Math 122, which would mean three units prior to the five, although some students would have to take Math 121; in the case of starting with Math 122 the requirements in Math would be eight units, and in the case of starting with Math 121 the requirements in Math would be nine units. In either case, the number of required units in Math would not exceed nine units, which would be in accordance with the University's guidelines regarding majors; in the latter case (starting with Math 121) the requirement of CSci 161 would constitute a tenth required unit, but not in Mathematics, which also would be in accordance with guidelines. The CSci major requirements do not exceed nine units.

As a final clarification Barnett stated that a student's major committee of three faculty members must include at least two members of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science.

The meeting came to an end at about 8:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne W. Barnett (31 Jan 96)

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