

Curric Affairs Committee 21 April 2014 Minutes 1-2 pm Reich 300

Present: (several via audio) Rainer Newberry, Chair; Karen Gustafson Ken Abramowicz, Cindy Hardy, Dennis Moser, Margaret Short, Alex Fitts, Linda Hapsmith, Stacey Howdeshell, Holly Sherouse, Caty Oehring, Jayne Harvie, Rob Duke, Sarah Hardy, Todd Radenbaugh, Libby Eddy

I. Approve Minutes of last meeting (hurrah!!)

II. Briefly reviewed comments from CLA (VIA Dean Sherman)

He received responses from about ½ of the departments in CLA. Their responses to GERC's proposal were generally positive

III. General Approach to GERC and BOR resolution.

We were pleased to find out that GERC agreed to the approach we proposed at the last meeting of separating 'General Education' Requirements (BOR 34 credits) from 'Baccalaureate' Requirements. We intend to take this to the Faculty Senate.

IV. Proposed motions

DRAFT MOTION 1

The Curricular Affairs Committee moves that the Faculty Senate submit the following changes to the UAF baccalaureate requirements for a faculty vote of approval:

Each student must complete a capstone course or experiential learning opportunity (e.g. internship) in student's major or program (0 – 3 credits).

This was tentatively approved with wording to be added concerning each program will decide for itself what will constitute an appropriate capstone. A justification is also needed. Rainer agreed to send around such for electronic approval by Wednesday, 23 April

DRAFT MOTION 2

The Curricular Affairs Committee moves that the Faculty Senate submit the following change to the UAF baccalaureate requirements for a faculty vote of approval:

Replace the current requirement for 2 written-intensive and one oral intensive class with "three courses marked "C", that integrate several kinds of communication practices with upper-division content, typically in a student's major. Non-written forms of communication may include, but are not limited to: oral presentations, discussions, training, videography, podcasting, or performance".

This motion was strongly opposed by K. Abramowicz who expressed the opinion that the entire approach of centralized approvals and monitoring O & W courses didn't work very well. Further, he pointed out that because each program's version of 'C' could be so different from another's that a 'C' course from one program would potentially not give a student in a different program tools that the student really needed. He proposed an entirely different approach of each program determining for itself what communications requirements to impose on its students.

We tentatively agreed to two different motions: (1) a version of this one that better spelled out the requirements and such for the new C (and justification and such) and (2) a motion that Ken A. would create. Rainer agreed to work on #1. Both would be circulated for electronic approval by Wednesday.

DRAFT MOTION 3

The Curricular Affairs Committee moves that the Faculty Senate submit the following changes to the UAF baccalaureate requirements for a faculty vote of approval:

Each student must take one course which possesses each of these attributes:

- (E) Civic Engagement (3 credits)
- (A) Alaska and the Circumpolar North (3 credits)
- (D) Intercultural Competence and Diversity (3 credits)

Total credits in addition to the GER to satisfy this requirement: 0 – 9 credits

Courses taken to satisfy these requirements may also satisfy General Education Requirements; they may satisfy a student's specific degree requirements; or they may satisfy a student's major requirements.

Although some courses may have multiple attributes, a student must take one course per attribute, for a total of 9 credits.

- Students will be provided with lists of courses with these attributes and such courses will also be indicated in their catalog descriptions. Faculty Senate committees will determine whether a course should have a certain attribute.
- These requirements should not necessitate taking additional credits to satisfy a student's common baccalaureate requirements, although depending on the choices, the courses could increase that total.
- Majors are not required to offer courses marked A, E, or D.
- Foreign languages, Alaska Native or American Sign Language, and many Study Abroad programs will satisfy the D requirement.

We agreed that this motion needed to be a 'discussion item' for the Faculty Senate at this time, given that the intention is for students outside of the BA to be able to fulfill the A, E, and D 'attributes' within the 34 BOR-defined General Education credits. How we actually go about doing so is not obvious. Cindy agreed (with a little pressure from Rainer) to work on presenting this as a discussion item, to be submitted for electronic approval by Wed 23 April.

With a vast sigh of relief, we adjourned.