

Curricular Affairs Committee
Meeting Minutes for October 28, 2015, 1-2:30 pm

Present: Ken Abramowicz, Casey Byrne, Jennie Carroll, Alex Fitts, Catherine Hanks, Cindy Hardy, Eileen Harney, Jayne Harvie, Joan Hornig, Ginny Kinne, Jenny Liu, Lisa Lunn, Rainer Newberry, Holly Sherouse

Absent: Doug Goering, Patrick Plattet

1. Approval/Amendment of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as submitted.

2. Approval of minutes from October 14

The minutes were approved with slight modification to the last line.

3. Old Business

a. O/W Motion for discussion

- i. Draft is online for comments. Document with comments as of 10/27, 10:30 am is attached.

The comments received on the shared Google Doc of the motion were discussed, and responses were crafted by the committee. There was agreement that the old system of O/W courses cannot be maintained -- an assessable system is necessary. The issue of students who switch majors was brought up. The O / W designation can be stored in Banner without the designation actually being published in the Catalog. The timeline for initially submitting Communication Plans was discussed, and April 15, 2016 was agreed upon. Approval of the plans will initially be by the school or college's academic council or curriculum review committee. Future assessment will be rolled into the annual SLOA process.

b. Probation actions based on summer performance (draft language from Alex/Doug)

Alex reported that the deans and Provost favored a change in which students would not be placed on probation if they had taken 4 credits or less (unless their cumulative GPA fell below 2.0), regardless of the actual semester in which that had taken place (fall, spring or summer). Alex will draw up modified wording for the Catalog.

[Item 4.c. was discussed next.]

c. GER motion giving CAC permission to make PHC to bucket change (draft language from Ken)

A draft motion was discussed that explicitly gives the committee permission from the Faculty Senate to move ahead and create the course classification ("bucket") lists. Discussion centered on the need to move away from the current Perspectives on the Human Condition (PHC) language so that alignment with general education requirements in the UA Regulations may be achieved.

Whether or not to require ethics course credit at this point in the process with Faculty Senate and the GERs alignment was discussed. At the other two universities, lower division ethics courses can be used to meet the humanities requirement. UAF ethics courses are upper division, so including it in the proposed motion puts UAF out of alignment with GERs. Upper division

ethics courses could be required separately from this current effort. Therefore, it was agreed to remove ethics from the current motion.

The merit of giving CAC the permission to develop the actual lists of courses or to instead have the lists themselves go before the Senate was discussed at length. Because the lists are likely to be added to later on, it was decided it would be more effective for CAC to get formal permission to develop the initial lists.

Holly mentioned the time constraints for getting changes into the 2016-17 Catalog, and so it was decided to get this to the October AdCom meeting.

Jennie agreed to re-format the motion and tweak the wording. It will be sent around to the committee for a final look before it goes to the Administrative Committee this week.

d. CAC Goals AY 15/16 update (attached)

An update is needed to the list item concerning the Foreign Language option (see page 32 of the Catalog). Some discussion followed about what level of review and approval is needed to formalize the change the committee has agreed upon. It was decided to take the issue to the AdCom for discussion (Nov. 30 meeting).

The topic regarding the capstone requirement will be moved up for discussion at the next meeting.

4. New Business

a. ECAI draft paragraph for syllabus (attached)

The length of the statement was an issue for the committee. Should it be a recommended statement, or a required statement? The committee was resistant to the idea of making it a required statement in all syllabi. A shorter optional statement will be developed and shown on the Curriculum web page. It will be listed with the optional Title IX statement.

See item #7 at web page below:

<http://www.uaf.edu/uafgov/faculty-senate/curriculum/course-degree-procedures/>

Jennie will ask Andreas for a shorter statement which CAC will review again before it's posted.

b. CAC GER Subcommittee Report from October 21 (attached)

Discussion postponed to the next meeting.

c. Minor in major issue – information from Education and Child Development and Family Studies

Jennie reported that she had spoken with the School of Education and the Child Development and Family Studies faculty about their bachelor's programs which have embedded minors. Since those conversations, the Sun Star student newspaper had published an article about the possibility of obtaining a minor from within one's major (any major). Alex and the Provost had discussed the issue before the article, and had agreed that a potential solution would be that only credits in excess of the 30 required for a major could be counted toward the minor (e.g., in a major with 36 required credits, 6 credits could double-count toward a minor). For any situation

that results from the current lack of a rule between now and a catalog revision, the petition process should be used so that the Provost signs off on the paperwork. It was noted that departments have the right to prohibit students from getting a minor in the same degree as their major (but, if not prohibited, then it can be done).

Holly described some of the issues that need to be addressed in DegreeWorks, such as courses in excess of the 30 major degree requirements that are potentially being counted toward a minor and also may be counted toward (h) and (s) requirements, and even toward W / O upper division requirements. If DegreeWorks cannot accommodate this sort of counting, they may have to do the actual counting of credits manually.

Alex will write up the proposed clarifications for the Catalog and for the Faculty Senate.

Members being in dire need of caffeine rejuvenation, agreed enthusiastically to adjourn and seek a freshly-brewed mug o' joe.