

UAF Curricular Affairs Committee

Meeting Minutes for February 3, 2017

Attending: Eileen Harney (Chair), Rainer Newberry, Ginny Kinne, Katy Oehring, Cindy Hardy, Mike Earnest, Alex Fitts, Kate Quick, Dejan Raskovic, Ken Abramowicz

The committee met and addressed the following:

Concurrent enrollment: We discussed the policy on protection of minors in relation to a motion we are bringing to the Senate on Concurrent Enrollment. These two issues are related.

Alaska Native Studies GER Proposal: We discussed how to implement an ANS requirement in the GER.

Possibilities we discussed include

The course could be taken as the “extra course” in the GER, which currently students can take from Arts/Humanities/Social Sciences to complete their GER, or

The requirement could be met by taking any ANS course, or

The course could be in any field that has courses with ANS content (such as a course in Alaska Native Literature).

We discussed what problem this requirement is a solution to. We considered that other universities have a diversity requirement and this is in line with that trend. We also noted that not all of our students are Alaskan high school graduates, so that this is not material they would have had previous contact with. We noted that UAF is unique in its studies of Alaska Native languages and culture.

Mike E suggested that courses that meet this requirement could be marked similarly to the “snowflake” courses once they are identified to the Registrar’s office.

Eileen will be having a conversation with Jess Black of ANS about these issues, and invited committee members to join her. Rainer, Caty, and Cindy agreed to do this.

Associate of Arts GER: Rainer raised the question of whether considering the Ethics requirement as part of the GER raised a problem for the AA, which generally includes courses below the 300 level. The 300-level Ethics classes are restricted to students with Junior standing or above, but the AA is, by definition, below Junior level. Previously, AA students completed their AA core by substituting an additional Social Science course for the Ethics course.

Some issues of considering Ethics as part of the GER—

This contradicts the requirement that GER classes be below 200-level, but

The consequences of taking Ethics out of the GER for the AA is that we accept the AA as waiving the GER, which means that we can't require transferring students to take the Ethics class, and

Taking the Ethics requirement out of the GER reduces by 3 credits what the AAs have to do to meet their GER although we could add an additional unspecified 3 credits to the requirement.

The Provost is looking at this issue, especially as it reflects our alignment with the other universities.

We discussed how to specify the Ethics requirement as a Baccalaureate requirement rather than a GER requirement. Rainer offered to draft a motion on this.

We discussed who approves courses as Ethics courses. Currently they go to the Core Review Committee; however, transfer students who have taken Ethics at other universities below the 300-level petition the Philosophy Department for approval. We discussed the history of the Ethics class in the Perspectives courses.

We ended the meeting with a brief discussion of the upcoming Senate vote of no confidence.