

Curricular Affairs Committee
Meeting Minutes: March 30, 2009

Present: Carrie Baker, Rainer Newberry, Ken Abramowicz, Beth Leonard (by phone), Jane Allen (by phone), Setha Bogosyan, Cathy Oehring, Amber Flora Thomas (Co-Chair; by phone), and Falk Huettmann (Meeting Facilitator & Co-Chair; note taker), Julie Maier (guest), Debasmita Misra (guest)

Quorum: YES

Agenda Item 1: Minutes from previous meeting, March 16th
Await circulation (done as draft) and approval (pending)

Agenda Item 2: Fast Track BS/MS (5 years combined program for selected students):

Topic was introduced by Rainer, presented as an Experiment (other schools have such programs already), to market UAF programs overall (e.g. fast graduation possible), and to allow very good students to move ahead. Proposal was discussed in detail re. timing of undergraduate courses, sequence of courses, selection criteria for qualified students, and the one-year tuition loss for UAF. Program was already approved by GAG and Curriculum Review. Notion was put forward by Rainer and approved (vote: 5 in favor, one abstain).

Agenda Item 3: Ethnobotany Certificate (ETBO presented by Julie Maier)

Program was presented and outlined on behalf of the Kuskowim Campus; digital material and support letters were provided to committee via email. This is the first certificate of this type in the nation, and supposed to develop further. It currently has a small impact on UAF resources (one teaching position). It's proposed to be delivered as a Distance Education format. Not all committee members had time to read all related documents in time. Evidence for wider support for the certificate was given. Notion was put forward and approved (vote: 5 in favor, one abstain).

Agenda Item 4: Old business: Review of Trial courses

This topic is a follow-up from earlier discussions at the previous meeting. Debasmita Misra presented the case for the school of Civil Engineering, and the topic was discussed, e.g. what are minimum criteria; several versions of syllabi were presented. The committee mentioned that the trial course proposal should show evidence that "substantial planning" and a "thought-out workload" was made by the proponent. The committee agreed that the criteria/guideline catalogue should better reflect these details in the wording, and that good examples should be provided for applicants so that 'no doubts' can occur.

Agenda Item 5: New business

None