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2008 October 22 - Undergraduate Curriculum Council Minutes

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University Curriculum Committee
Minutes: October 22, 2008

The fourth meeting of the University Curriculum Committee for the Fall semester 2008 took place on Wednesday October 22 in the President's Conference Room, Dossett Hall.

Agenda Items:

1. Call to order.

The meeting was called to order at 2:03pm with the following voting members present: Diane Mozen (Faculty Senate); Debbie Dotson (Clinical and Rehabilitative Sciences); Mary Langenbrunner (Education); Amy Swango-Wilson (Nursing); Jill LeRoy-Frazier (Cross-Disciplinary Studies); Mike Stoots (Public Health); Keith Green (Arts & Sciences/at large); Scott Contreras-Koterbay (Arts & Sciences); Kathy Campbell (Sherrod Library); Theresa McGarry (Arts & Sciences/at large); Alison Deadman (Arts & Sciences/at large)

There were no ex-officio members present

The following guests attended: Katrina Heil (Spanish); Jerome Mwinyelle (Spanish); Ray Mohseni (Chemistry); Thomas Alan Holmes (Arts & Sciences).

The chair welcomed the College of Nursing's new representative, Dr. Amy Swango-Wilson

2. Approval of minutes of October 8, 2008 meeting.

Discussion of the minutes clarified who had proposed and seconded the motion to approve the minutes of Sept 24 at the last meeting and pointed out a typographical error. A motion to approve the minutes of the October 8 meeting was proposed by Green, seconded by Dotson and was adopted with all in favor.

3. Actions by the chair on behalf of the committee.

The chair reported that she had taken the following actions on behalf of the committee:

- a. **Approval of GEOL 4018, Honors Thesis.**
- b. **Approval of TBR proposal Astronomy Minor.**
- c. **Rejection of TBR proposal, new concentration in chemistry, Chemical Physics.**
- d. **Rejection of TBR proposal for China Studies Minor.**
- e. **Rejection of HIST/PSCI 4740, Seminar in China Studies.**

4. New business: curriculum and course proposals to be considered for the first time.

a. **New course proposal: CHEM 1040 (Dr. Reza Mohseni)**

http://etsuis.etsu.edu/CPS/forms.aspx?DispType=OutputForms&NodeID=5_2a&FormID=6&Instance=2193

Dr. Mohseni explained that there was a high rate of failure among students in the general chemistry sequence. The course under consideration is designed for students who need preparation in mathematics, study skills and basic concepts of Chemistry in order to be successful in the general chemistry sequence. The class was initially offered in the Spring semester 2008 when it had 6 students enrolled. Offered again this semester (Fall 2008) the enrollment is considerably larger (35 students).

Discussion of the proposal suggested the following: Using more of the available letters/spaces for the *Transcript Title*; revising the *Course Description* so that it is more positive; adjusting the proposed implementation date to Spring 2009; deleting the first two sentences under *Purpose and Goals*; revising the wording of the goals under *Purpose and Goals* to turn the list into goals of the class rather than student learning objectives; replacing the words “decide” and “know” in the *Learning Objectives* with active, measurable verbs; adding more detail to the list of *Major Assignments*; deleting the final sentence under *Grading Scale*; and correcting the typographical errors in the document.

McGarry put forward a motion that this proposal should come before the committee again after the suggested revisions have been made. The proposal was seconded by Green. Discussion of the proposal centered on whether or not this proposal needed to be returned to the committee or not. The number of changes needed along with the fact that checking that these changes had been made would put an unfair burden on the chair were cited as reasons for the proposal to be returned to the committee for further review. The motion was unanimously approved.

b. **TBR proposal: Substantive curriculum modification: BA in Foreign Language: Spanish (Dr. Jerome Mwinyelle)**

http://etsuis.etsu.edu/CPS/forms.aspx?DispType=OutputForms&NodeID=5_2a&FormID=11&Instance=2271

Katrina Heil (representing Jerome Mwinyelle) told the committee that this substantive curriculum modification was designed to add needed structure to the Spanish concentration, requiring students take courses in a logical order, to take classes in a broad range of areas within the concentration, to take classes that focus on Latin-America as well as classes that focus on Spain, and to take at least one class that deals with the U.S Latino/Latina population.

The committee asked why this proposal eliminated the 2xxx level classes from the concentration. Heil explained that the norm at other institutions is not to have Spanish language classes as part of the major, and that the current revision was merely bringing ETSU in line with current practices. It was suggested that this information be included in the *Need* section of the proposal, with supporting data from programs at other TBR schools and/or at ETSU’s peer institutions.

Discussion of the proposal also resulted in the following suggestions: the *Proposed Implementation Date* be changed; the wording be changed under *Purpose (Goals and Objectives)* to clarify that the bulleted list is a listing of the objectives of the major (to prepare students to...); and the number of hours be amended under the “Curriculum Component” section of the *Curriculum* part of the proposal with the minimum number of electives being changed to 18, the *Major Field Core* hours being changed to N/A and the *Concentration* to 33.

A motion to accept with the discussed changes was suggested, but under discussion it was decided that it would be better for the entire committee to see this proposal again. The motion was withdrawn. Subsequently a motion was proposed by Mozen to ask for the recommended changes to be made to the course proposal and to have it come before the committee again. This was seconded by Contreras-Koterbay. The motion passed with all in favor.

c. **TBR proposal: Substantive curriculum modification: Spanish Minor (Dr. Jerome Mwinyelle)**

http://etsuis.etsu.edu/CPS/forms.aspx?DispType=OutputForms&NodeID=5_2a&FormID=11&Instance=2272

Dr. Mwinyelle explained that the current minor requires students take any seven 3-hour courses from the 2xxx level or above. The current proposal seeks to create more structure to help students succeed; for example, it prevents them from taking a 4xxx-level literature course without having taken an introductory literature course. The proposal also serves to ensure that students take some literature courses – currently it is possible to complete the minor without taking any literature courses.

The committee recommended that a statement be included in the proposal to the effect that the elimination of the 2xxx-level language courses bringing ETSU in line with current practice, and that the statement be supported with data from other TBR schools and/or ETSU’s peer institutions. The committee also recommended that the *Proposed Implementation Date* be changed; that the bulleted list under *Purpose (Goals and Objectives)* be changed to a list with roman numerals (to facilitate reference back to this list at a later stage in the document) and that the wording preceding this list be modified to make it clear that this is a listing of the objectives of the minor (to prepare the student to...); that the total “Hours Required” under *Curriculum* be changed from N/A to 21; that under *Need* the numbered paragraphs have the words “as a prerequisite” added for clarification; and that under *Impact* the phrase “the application of Spanish in other disciplines” be changed to “an ability to apply this knowledge to other disciplines” to make it clear that the application of Spanish to other disciplines is a resulting ability of students completing the minor and not a component of it.

A motion to ask that the recommended changes be made and the proposal come before the committee again was put forward by Campbell and seconded by McGarry. It passed unanimously.

- d. **Non-substantive curriculum change: Spanish. (Dr. Jerome Mwinyelle)**
http://etsuis.etsu.edu/CPS/forms.aspx?DispType=OutputForms&NodeID=5_2a&FormID=17&Instance=680

Mwinyelle explained the need for revision of the prerequisites in the Spanish concentration to prevent students from taking 4xxx-level literature courses without having taken the 3xxx-level introductory literature courses.

The committee noted that the implementation date needed to be amended. Other discussion focused on why there was both a non-substantive and a substantive curriculum proposal from the same concentration. Mwinyelle explained that Marsh Grube (Academic Affairs) had told him that this was what was needed. The committee also questioned the addition of the phrase “A grade of at least C- in SPAN 1020, or with the consent of the Spanish coordinator” to SPAN 2010. Mwinyelle explained that this phrase appeared in other course descriptions and was supposed to have been added to SPAN2010 when it was added to the other courses but it had somehow been omitted. The committee pointed out that a non-substantive curriculum change does not usually change course descriptions and recommended Mwinyelle check to make sure that the change he desired would be made in the catalogue.

A motion by Mozen to accept the proposal with the change of implementation date was seconded by Stoots and passed with all in favor.

5. Any Other Business

There was no other business at this time.

6. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was proposed by Contreras-Koterbay and seconded by McGarry. All present voted in favor of the motion.