

Curriculum Committee

Discussion

December 11, 2009 – HUB Student Senate Room

MINUTES

Present: Bonnie L. Bechard, Christian Bisson (2:40 pm), Mary E. Campbell (non-voting), Stephanie M. Caron, Elizabeth A. Cox (Chair), Robert G. Egbert, Jr., Karolyn Kinane, Joyce C. Larson, Lisa D. Spradley, Francis M. Williams

Excused: Julie N. Bernier, D. Benjamin Dearth, Lindsay E. Harrington, Anil Waghe

Exhibits:

- Self-study of the Department of Languages and Linguistics, Fall 2007
- Summary of current status and recommendations regarding the Department of Languages and Linguistics at Plymouth State University by John H. Twomey, Jr., Chancellor Professor and Chair of Department of Foreign Literature and Languages, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, December 14, 2007
- Lamson Library reports on Child Literature Collection; K-12 Curriculum Collection and Children's Literature; ILL and Electronic Reserves; Lamson Library and Learning Commons Information Desk; Outreach; Periodicals; Reference Services; Special Projects; Technical Services
- Final Report of Library Program Review for Plymouth State University by Stephen Spohn, Senior Consultant for Planning and Assessment for NELINET, February 6, 2009

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:35 pm.

- I. Approval of November 13 meeting minutes. Okay as distributed.
- II. Review of Library and Department of Languages and Linguistics Self Study and External review Report

Library

What does the Library bring to this Committee? Why is there a Library signature on the Curriculum Committee forms? What purpose does it serve? The Library supports the curriculum. The Library needs to be ready for new programs, new courses. Resource issues. Accreditation standards. How is the Library poised for growth? May be less crucial as more goes electronic. Are collections shared within USNH? We can access; can be borrow? There may be some that cannot be borrowed because of the cost of licenses. Changeover from older technology to new technology. CD duplicator is gone; not sure it will be replaced. What will replace this service? Perhaps David Berona could be asked for options. Staff is so helpful.

Integration with Teaching and Learning – Pervasive Blackboard Integration (page 5 of reviewer's report): would support; potential, especially for graduate students; would be more tools available, more of a virtual library. Are we phasing out Blackboard? Yes; we're looking at two products.

Languages and Linguistics

Interesting tie in's with new proposed programs.

Department Weaknesses (page 12 of Self Study): they have more part-time staff than most departments. Not enough majors to take upper-level courses. How do you make it work when students study away? The Department is currently searching for a tenure track French position

Curriculum Committee

Bagley Center (page 6 of reviewer's report): universal concerns. Don't know how many. Maybe look at centralization versus decentralization of services. Maybe more collaboration between Bagley and departments. Faculty have cancelled trips because of Bagley red tape. Some internships are done by Bagley; the rationale was Bagley had the staff to visit the intern. Things are cumbersome sometimes, e.g., timelines required by Bagley. Issues of management of internship. Important for language majors to study abroad. Lots of opportunity for improvements. Students are charged. Faculty trips through Bagley have been a nightmare; red tape, lack of cooperation, communication. Faculty should give grades for internship. Need new model of collaboration; some aspects more academic and some (e.g., travel aspects) could be done by Bagley. Internships: faculty do academic assessment; travel done by Bagley. There are new people involved; opportune time for discussion and change. Beth will ask Barbara Lopez-Mayhew for current status.

Handbook for students. Has the Department created it? HHP has a student handbook which helps.

Ask: number of students studying aboard; number of all students studying away; number of individual enrollments for upper-level courses.

III. Majors/options data

Joyce distributed today two large reports of five years of data. Serving majors, General Ed, other populations? Need more time to review. Are the majors serving enough students to warrant a major? Courses that service only majors but have low enrollment. Don't pick PSU for a language major versus business major.

IV. BA vs. BS degree

Christian reported on the research he conducted. There is no research on the size of a BA or a BS; there are studies from 1965. The BA is generally a humanity curriculum with more breadth. The BS generally prepares a student for a specific profession. Prepare generalists or profession?

NEASC standard 4.17, adopted 2005 (NEASC web site): at least 40 credits are General Education. UNH requires 10 four-credit classes. KSC requires 42 credits of Gen Ed.

NEASC standard 4.14: unrestricted electives

NEASC standard 4.19 major/concentration: expect more classes for professional training to help to practice the profession, make connections, e.g., internships, clinicals.

BA: breadth

BS: profession, so many have outside accreditations

From what extent can you deviate from this and still get NEASC approval?

Having electives buy some wiggle room as students change majors. Our largest entering class is undecided.

What do we do with this information? Is this really a problem? Ask the Provost. The number of electives is not a problem with NEASC.

V. Academic Plan and Curriculum Committee Role

Will academic plan influence resource allotment or curriculum? NASC asks us to simplify. Central to mission. Who decides? NEASC asks us to assess. What can the Curriculum Committee do?

Relationship between curriculum and budget. We can bring forward initiatives, raise questions. What

Curriculum Committee

programs are central to the mission? Can Curriculum Committee do anything about curriculum support? Is program cost effective? Mission statement of the University—where is it? New program brings in lots of students but is not supported, e.g., full-time faculty. Where is the staffing for existing programs if you can provide for a new program, e.g., Sports Management? Not every program can be looked at in the same way. Not one approach fits all programs. The Business faculty decided it was good to end the Applied Economics major and start the Finance major; best use of resources versus political reasons. Who is authoring the academic plan and for what reason? What is a regional comprehensive university? What does it mean in terms of the curriculum? What are the demographics of North County? Are we serving that population? What is the definition of that region? County? Town? How many are in the North Country that are eligible for college? Where are the people coming from who make the request for a major, e.g., Sports Management?

Is there something written that says what the Curriculum Committee does? Faculty Handbook; faculty by-laws; Curriculum Handbook.

NEASC report says “academic plan.” Who develops the academic plan? Who is driving it? Who is it serving? Versus group that created the strategic plan. How do we assess programs that are viable or should be eliminated? Is it just us? Are we empowered to do it? Could review all programs that require/offer internships. Then what? Can bring to the Faculty. Any one faculty member can declare a proposal as major.

Beth will ask the Library about sharing collections and blackboard. She will ask Barbara Lopez-Mayhew about students studying abroad, the department’s handbook, how is linguistics doing, enrollment.

Academic Plan (page 6 of NEASC report): Bonnie and Christian will look at other institutions that have academic plans. Does NEASC define it? UNH has an academic plan. Departments have academic/strategic plans; budget requests are tied to that plan.

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm. The Curriculum Committee has agreed to meet the second Friday of the month, from 2:30 to 5 pm, for the purpose of discussing the curriculum. All regular business will be conducted on the third Friday of the month. The next Discussion meeting will be **February 12th**.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. Campbell, Scribe
Director of Curriculum Support