

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

September 18, 2009 – Student Senate Room (HUB 119)

MINUTES

Present: Bonnie L. Bechard (2:34 pm), Julie N. Bernier, Christian Bisson, Mary E. Campbell (consultant, non-voting), Stephanie M. Caron (student, voting), Elizabeth A. Cox (Chair), Robert G. Egbert, Lindsay E. Harrington (student, voting), Karolyn Kinane, Joyce C. Larson, Anil Waghe, Francis M. Williams (new faculty observer, non-voting; 2:37 pm) [ten voting members]

Excused: Lisa D. Spradley

Vacant position: student

Presenters of Proposals: Elizabeth A. Ahl, Barbara D. Lopez-Mayhew, Leonard R. Reitsma, Mark P. Turski

Note: Unless otherwise indicated, all curricular changes noted below will become effective with the 2010-2011 edition of the Academic Catalog. Recorded in the order in which the agenda item was discussed.

Beth Cox called the meeting to order at 2:32 pm. Committee members introduced themselves.

I. The minutes of the May 15, 2009 meeting were *approved as presented, 10-0-0-1.*

II. New Business

A. Criminal Justice:

1. BA Criminal Justice: blanket agreement to allow students following a pre-2009-10 Catalog who have completed all major requirements and General Education requirements, to graduate with 120 credits. *Approved 10-0-0-1.*

B. Education:

1. (a) BS Childhood Studies and BS Childhood Studies/Teacher Certification (K-8): blanket agreement to allow students following a pre-2009-10 Catalog who have completed all major requirements and General Education requirements, to graduate with 120 credits.
(b) BS Early Childhood Studies/Early Care and Education and BS Early Childhood Studies/Teacher Certification (K-3): blanket agreement to allow students following a pre-2009-10 Catalog who have completed all major requirements and General Education requirements, to graduate with 120 credits.

Approved 10-0-0-1.

C. Languages and Linguistics:

1. SPDI 2100 Modern Latin American Literature in Translation (SSDI): change discipline to LL; new course number is LLDI 2200. *Approved 10-0-0-1.*

D. English:

1. BA English (all options): blanket agreement to allow students following a pre-2009-10 Catalog who have completed all major requirements and General Education requirements, to graduate with 120 credits. *Approved 10-0-0-1.*
2. EN 3630 Rhetoric: blanket agreement to allow students following the 2009-10 and future Catalogs to count EN 3630 as an Advanced Study in Writing Course. *Approved 10-0-0-1.*
3. (a) EN 2120 Ancient Literature: blanket agreement to count EN 2120 as either a Group A course or an Introductory Course for the major
(b) EN 2210 Love and Desire in Medieval and Renaissance Writing: blanket agreement to count EN 2210 as either a Group A course or an Introductory Course for the major
(c) EN 2370 Contemporary American Literature: blanket agreement to count EN 2370 as either a Group B course or an Introductory Course for the major

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- (d) EN 2380 Contemporary British Literature: blanket agreement to count EN 2380 as either a Group B course or an Introductory Course for the major
- (e) EN 4110 Shakespeare I: blanket agreement to count EN 4110 as an Advanced Study in Literature Course for the major
- (f) EN 4120 Shakespeare II: blanket agreement to count EN 4120 as an Advanced Study in Literature Course for the major

Approved 10-0-0-1.

E. Biological Sciences

- 1. BS Biology: change degree requirements and reduce the total credits required to 120. These changes affect the Biological Science Education Option and require that Developmental Biology be proposed as a new course. After much discussion, including an additional proposal to change the Biological Science Education option to a degree, Dr. Reitsma *withdrew* the proposal.
- 2. BS Environmental Biology: change degree requirements and reduce the total credits required to 120. *Approved 10-0-0-1.*
- 3. New course: BIDI 1070 Solving the Mysteries of Inheritance (3 credits). You hear about genetics in the media: gene therapy, genetically-modified foods, nature vs. nurture, etc. What is a gene? How are genes inherited? Introduces classical and molecular genetics and considers how this applies to real-world cases and questions. Topics include genetic disease, human inheritance, environmental genetics, ethics of genetics. Meets once a week for three hours, split into lecture and seminar-style discussion; may incorporate occasional lab exercises and patient visits, depending on availability and relevance to the course topics. Springs. (SIDI). *Approved 10-0-0-1.* [The course is currently being offered experimentally.]

F. Environmental Science and Policy

- 1. New course: ESDI 1000 Introduction to Planetary Science (3 credits). Intended for non-science majors. Emphasizes comparative planetology—the study of the Earth as a planet and of the other planets as worlds and how studying other planets helps us understand the Earth. Imbeds the nature of science, the impact of science on society and technology, and the study of historic and general astronomy topics that relate to planetary science. Springs. (SIDI). *Approved 10-0-0-1.*

G. Music, Theatre, and Dance

- 1. (a) BA Music (all options): blanket agreement to allow students following a pre-2009-10 Catalog who have completed all major requirements and General Education requirements, to graduate with 120 credits.
 - (b) BA Theatre Arts (all options): blanket agreement to allow students following a pre-2009-10 Catalog who have completed all major requirements and General Education requirements, to graduate with 120 credits.
- Approved 10-0-0-1.*
- 2. (a) ME 2130 Piano Class III: change discipline to Music (MU); new course number is MU 2230
 - (b) ME 2140 Piano Class IV: change discipline to Music (MU); new course number is MU 2240
- Approved 10-0-0-1.*
- 3. BA Music/Music Technology: delete MU 3010 as a Junior Elective choice; delete MU 4010 as a Senior Elective choice. *Approved 10-0-0-1.*

H. Social Science

- 1. PO 3230 Piecework for Peacework: An International Service Learning Course: second experimental offering. *Approved 10-0-0-1.*
- 2. New course: PO 3260 Model UN Lab (1 credit). Introduces students to the origins, functions, structure and issues facing the contemporary United Nations. Prepares a student delegation to the World Model UN conference in an international setting, organized by Harvard University. Includes role-playing and offers a chance to extend one's knowledge of international politics while developing proficiency in public speaking, policy formulation, parliamentary procedure, diplomacy, negotiations, and conflict resolution. Excellent preparation for a career in public

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policy or international affairs. May be repeated for credit. Springs. Prerequisite(s): PO 3250 (may be taken concurrently). *Approved 10-0-0-1.*

I. Undergraduate Studies

1. 2+2 Transfer Agreement with New Hampshire Technical Institute for their AS Hospitality and Tourism Management and our BA Tourism Management and Policy. *Approved 10-0-0-1.*
2. Transfer Agreement with New Hampshire Technical Institute for our BA Criminal Justice to articulate with their AS in Criminal Justice. *Approved 10-0-0-1.* It was suggested that this could become a 2+2 Transfer Agreement.

III. Reports

- A. SAPC. UNH proposed a name change to one of their programs. KSC added several options. PSU did not have any proposals.
- B. General Education Committee. Met September 14th; Sam Brickley is Chair. Discussed (a) assessing the program, including the CLA, faculty focus groups for those teaching Directions and Connections; (b) questions from the English Department regarding the GACO requirement; (c) whether the Gen Ed forms should be revised; (d) where Gen Ed minutes, forms, lists, etc. should be posted (myPlymouth v. Faculty Governance Blog); (e) the logistics of reviewing course proposals. There are 119 Connections and 24 Directions with a sunset date of 5/2010 which must be submitted for renewal no later than December 7th. The General Education Handbook for the current program has been completed and posted online.
- C. Council on Teacher Education. Meets September 21st.
- D. Steering Committee. Discussed (a) Administrator Evaluation Committee, its tasks (for faculty to comment on the principal administrators), composition; (b) search committee for Vice President of Student Affairs.

IV. Discussion of future work

1. A list of programs that have been approved by the Curriculum Committee to require 120 total credits for degree completion, effective with the 2009-2010 Academic Catalog, was distributed with the agenda. Beth will notify the departments who need to submit blanket agreements such as were proposed today for Criminal Justice, Childhood Studies, Early Childhood Studies, English, Music and Theatre Arts.
2. A spreadsheet showing for each degree, major and option the number of credits in the major, credits in General Education, credits of free electives, total credits required and General Education Waiver was distributed with the agenda.

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15 credits of free electives. The Faculty Budget and Resource Committee sent a memo to the Council of Chairs, the Curriculum Committee, the Faculty Welfare Committee and the Planning Committee, asking for support of their proposed Curriculum Parameters. At the December 20th Curriculum Committee meeting the related CBC recommendations were discussed; Committee members were to write a draft statement and e-mail it to Dan Kervick; Dan was to compile the results and report them to the Curriculum Committee. Also at the December 20th Curriculum Committee meeting, Jonathan Santore presented a memo regarding the BS Music Education program (it requires 133 credits with no electives); theirs is K-12 certification and they have many competencies to meet. The FBRC proposal was discussed: no mechanism for enforcing it; what do we do if a department does not do it; wording is not strong; maybe we could give some language; should build in an appeal mechanism; should be a supportive process; focus should be that this is philosophically good for our students; it is difficult to force something that doesn't feel right. The FBRC proposal was amended (*see italics*):

Curriculum Parameters:

- A. All bachelor's level undergraduate programs (*that is major/option combinations*) at Plymouth State College will contain a minimum of 15 credit hours of free, non-directed, electives. Students may choose elective courses with the assistance of their academic advisor or may use their free electives to transfer courses into Plymouth State College or complete a minor that is not required for graduation.

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- B. New programs that are brought forward should meet the 15 credit hours of free, non-directed, electives standard. Programs that are not now in compliance should move toward compliance as they make any future curriculum modifications without increasing the credits required for graduation.
- C. *Deviations from these goals should be justified to the Curriculum Committee any time a program not in compliance is revised.*

Approved 8-1-0-1 by the Curriculum Committee.

Approved 2/28/03 by the Executive Council.

Approved 3/5/03 by the Faculty.

How do we move things forward? The 15 credits of free electives came from this committee to the faculty, to give students flexibility, if they change their major, if they wanted a minor, if they had transfer credits. There have been lots of conversations recently including time-to-degree, complexity of programs, tightly constrained programs; thus, the call for curricular revision. We need to work on the curriculum. Moving from 122 credits to 120 credits is one element of curriculum revision. We need to take a critical look at the curriculum. BA degrees should be 1/3 major, 1/3 General Education and 1/3 free electives. We have some BA programs with 60+ credits in the major (more than half of the degree). We need shared governance to address this. Get back to departments who have not yet looked at their programs.

External accreditation? This committee has been understanding about this. There is a fine line between allowing them to use this as a shield. Accrediting bodies tell us the competencies that have to be met, not the specific courses needed to meet those competencies.

New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC): 2003 was our 10 year report; we have done our five year report. We must show in our next report movement in:

- Assessment – need to get entrenched in that, get some structures in place
- “Commodious offerings”
- Large complex programs and low enrolled programs.

Dan Moore and Scott Mantie will be meeting with departments this year. We need to do an academic plan; curriculum revision should be tied into that. Do we need a curriculum representative with Dan and Scott? Assessment and planning; help with the department getting started. Compare your program with other schools.

Low enrollment programs—how are they defined? The number of graduates each year; no specific number from NEASC. Philosophy is the smallest major.

The role of the Council of Chairs? Chairs are academic leaders. The Council of Chairs is not part of faculty governance. The Provost goes through the Chairs and faculty committees.

Check the department about their outside reviewers? Departments have to submit a copy of their Program Review to the Curriculum Committee. The Curriculum Committees doesn't do anything with them.

Software packages for assessment? Overwhelming to collect the data and analyze it; not feasible to do all that needs to be done in a committee. Helpful to have working definition of “assessment.” Start with course embedded assessment. Have been looking at I folios, web folios, electronic folios to use; can be used per student and institutionally. TRACKDAT is an electronic assessment tool.

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The executive committee of the Curriculum Committee should group proposals and present them as a consent agenda. Any member can request the removal of an item from the consent agenda.

Beth will send links, e.g., NEASC, for the next meeting so we can have time to talk.

Lab fees—why don't we have them? The Chairs of the three departments in Boyd are talking to the Provost and Assistant Provost.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

The Curriculum Committee meets on the third Friday of the month from 2:30 until 5 pm in the Student Senate room (HUB 119). Proposals need to reach the Chair 10 days prior to the meeting. Their next meeting is Friday, **October 16th**.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. Campbell, Scribe
Director of Curriculum Support

These minutes were approved October 16, 2009.