

Educational Policy Committee
Minutes: January 27, 2005

Attending: Carolyn Boggs, Sharon Broadwater, Howard Busbee, Cory Butler, John Eisele, Kristen Grabow, George Grayson, Sharon Jones, Phil Kearns, Justin Kliger, Arthur Knight, Deborah Morse, Ed Pratt, Jim Whittenburg.

The meeting was called to order at 1pm.

1. The following New Course Applications were considered:

APSC 201, Introduction to Materials Science. TABLED

The committee found the "optional" co-requisites (Math 111-112) odd. The chair will contact the application's submitter to have him decide if, indeed, the proposed course has a co-requisite.

There was also concern about the content-free nature of the catalog description. This was especially evident when compared with the catalog copy of the proposed APSC 301. One committee member stated that the description read more like that for a topics course. The chair will convey this concern to the submitter.

APSC 301, Mechanics of Materials. APPROVED

INTR 100, The College and the Community. APPROVED

Committee initially unsure as to where in catalog this course would appear. Chair was asked to verify that this is to be an INTR course. Submitter verified.

INTR 450, Topics in College and Community. APPROVED

Same concerns as for INTR 100. Verified.

GOVT 392, Topics in Political Theory. APPROVED

2. The following Course Change Applications were considered:

ANTH 311, Archaeology of North America. APPROVED

Renumbered as 322 and new catalog description.

ANTH 326, Indians of North America. APPROVED

Renumbered as 323.

ANTH 327, Indians of the Southwest. APPROVED

Renumbered as 324.

ANTH 328, Sun Dance People. APPROVED

Renumbered as 325.

DANC 405, 406, Independent Projects in Dance. APPROVED

Changed to 1-3 credits with a revised catalog description.

MATH 410, 459, Topics in Mathematics, Topics in Statistics. APPROVED

Changed to variable credit.

MUSC 350, Special Topics in Music Performance. APPROVED

Changed to variable (1-4) credit with revised catalog description.

PHYS 404, Quantum Physics. APPROVED

Changed title and catalog description.

3. The following Curriculum Change Applications were considered:

Physics: pre-med alternative concentration. APPROVED

Physics: concentration computing proficiency requirement.
APPROVED

4. The following GER Applications were considered:

GRMN 387 (LCST 351), The Rise and Fall of the Wall:
German Reunification in Perspective. GER5. APPROVED

INTR 150W, Thinking. GER7. TABLED

The application seemed garbled. Impossible to see how the three questions of the GER7 form were answered. Chair will contact submitter to clarify.

Committee also expressed reservations about the limitation that the course be available only to College and Monroe Scholars. This concern, however, is uncoupled from GER7 application for this course.

5. Old business:

MUSC E22 GER6 Application.

Chair reported that submitter of the application agreed to title the course "Performance Art Ensemble," dropping the term "Hysterical" from the proposed title. Consistent with the conditional approval from the November 23, 2004 meeting, GER6 is approved for the course.

SOCL 353 GER1 status.

The chair had been asked to see if Sociology could provide documentation of EPC approval for the removal of the prerequisite for SOCL 353 (formerly SOCL 401). He reported that Sociology was still looking for the required documentation.

6. Dean's Discussion Items:

GOVT Minor.

The Dean's Office received warning from Government that they were considering eliminating their minor due to enrollment pressure. Clay Clemens, chair of the Government department stated that upper-level GOVT courses were full to the point that both concentrators and minors could not be handled. Discussion centered on whether or not elimination of the minor would solve the congestion problem. It was noted that not all departments have minors.

Government will reconsider its situation before taking

further action.

Transfer Credit for Distance Learning Courses.

Given that the technology for distance learning courses has improved significantly over the past few years, and given that W&M offers distance learning courses, EPC was asked to consider the conditions under which transfer credit might be given for a distance learning course. The catalog currently explicitly forbids transfer credit. The Registrar has a difficult time evaluating whether or not a course presented for transfer credit is a distance learning course.

The chair will appoint a subcommittee to study the issue and make a recommendation to EPC.

New Transfer System.

Ed Pratt described the new registration priority system in which priority is based primarily on social class. The old system in which credits earned determined priority will continue for "old" students. Students who enrolled in or after Fall 2004 will be subject to the new system.

7. Registrar's Discussion Items

The Registrar can now enforce prerequisites more stringently. If a student preregistered for a course while enrolled in a prerequisite, and then received an F or an I for the prerequisite course, the Registrar can flag this by the beginning of the add/drop period. The committee decided that a student in this situation should be automatically dropped from the course and the instructor should be notified. This would require that the student interact with the instructor in order to get the override needed to add back into the course.