

Educational Policy Committee
Minutes: November 23, 2004
J. Eisele, reporting

Those present were: Phil Kearns (Chair), Carolyn Boggs, Howard Busbee, Cory Butler, John Charles, John. Eisele, George Grayson, Sharon Jones, Arthur Knight, Larry Leemis, Ray McCoy, Deborah Morse, Carl Strikwerda.

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 pm in the Colony Room of the University Center.

New Course Applications:

ECON 422. Approved on line.

HIST 203. Approved on line, with 3 abstentions. No one who abstained on line was present or cared to discuss reservations about the course. It passed.

Course Change Applications:

FREN 342. Approved on line, with one abstention.

KINE 394: this was a revision to an existing course, adding a prerequisite course Kin 204 or 304, as per the discussion of the previous meeting regarding courses that fulfill GER 1. A GER 1 course not in the Math department, should have a content based prerequisite course. The prerequisite course contains course discipline specific information, so that statistics can be focused on in Kin 394.

Larry Leemis found the application to be compliant with the GER 1 stipulations. George Grayson questioned the prerequisite stipulation, and where various types of statistical analysis are introduced and dealt with. Phil Kearns noted that such topics are dealt with in the first course, and referred back to the memo from Rublein discussed in the last meeting for a recap of this.

Continuation of this discussion was delayed until Sociology 353 could also be discussed.

MUSC E22:

A syllabus was provided, but discussion centered on the term "hysterical" with George Grayson noting the view of those outside of the academy toward such a term. Deborah Morse noted that the instructor of the course is a very avant garde artist, and such a term

is in keeping with this outlook. An initial vote was taken, with three in favor and two against. Arthur Knight noted that the title should be more generic, there being no genre to his knowledge with the label "hysterical performance art" and suggested that the title should be "Performance Art Ensemble" without reference to the "hysterical". A move to approve the course with the stipulation that the title be changed to delete the term "hysterical" was voted on and passed unanimously.

Curriculum Change Application:

ENGL Curriculum Changes:

Cory Butler noted that from the registrar's point of view the English department changes were in line with university policy regarding course number designations (permanent titles have permanent numbers). A question was raised about using letters to designate different topics courses with the same number, and it was noted that this is an acceptable practice. Arthur Knight questioned whether we had passed this before, and was told that we had. A further question noted the limitations on the kinds of students getting priority to register for English department classes, and this was confirmed by Deborah Morse as being due to the fact that there are not enough spaces in these courses, and priority must be given to English majors. In the same regard, it was noted that there should be some exception made for transfer students, and Deborah Morse informed the committee that this is being addressed.

On another issue George Grayson brought to the attention of the committee that a course in Shakespeare is not required for an English major and questioned the wisdom of this. He suggested that the committee refer the curriculum back to the English department to ask them to require a course on Shakespeare for its majors.

Phil Kearns suggested that the committee vote on the curriculum changes as it stands, and if it passed the committee should ask for clarification on two points, regarding the Shakespeare issue and consideration of prioritizing transfer students in registering for classes. Larry Leemis asked the members who knew the most about this to clarify the issue, and Arthur Knight seconded Phil Kearns' motion and noted that the curriculum passed in the English department by about a 70% to 30% majority.

The vote was taken and the motion passed by 4 to 2, with objections to be sent by email.

George Grayson expressed the following objection to the approval of

the new ENGL curriculum:

"The revised English Department curriculum does a great disservice to our students and makes a mockery of a liberal arts education. Under the proposed changes, students can earn a degree in English without taking courses in Shakespeare, Chaucer, and Milton. In fact, they can concentrate on classes devoted to modern writers, with minimal exposure to the giants of English Literature. This revision represents political correctness run amok."

As part of this motion, the following new courses were approved:

- ENGL 371
- ENGL 380
- ENGL 411
- ENGL 412
- ENGL 414
- ENGL 416
- ENGL 417
- ENGL 419

As part of this motion, the following course change applications were approved:

- ENGL 202 (new 209)
- ENGL 206 (new 212)
- ENGL 301 (new 367)
- ENGL 305 (new 369)
- ENGL 306 (new 368)
- ENGL 312 (new 322)
- ENGL 370 (new 360)
- ENGL 407 (new 466)
- ENGL 408 (new 411A)
- ENGL 409 (new 314)
- ENGL 410 (new 315)
- ENGL 413 (new 420)
- ENGL 429 (new 325)
- ENGL 434 (new 316)
- ENGL 435 (new 311)
- ENGL 436 (new 344)
- ENGL 437 (new 417A)
- ENGL 440 (new 343)
- ENGL 445 (new 416A)
- ENGL 452 (new 355)
- ENGL 456 (new 356)
- ENGL 457 (new 357)
- ENGL 458 (new 358)
- ENGL 459 (new 359)

ENGL 462 (new 417B)
ENGL 463 (new 414A)

Old Business:

GER1 Status for SOCL 353:

Concerning the required prerequisite for a GER 1 designation for this course: The chair uncovered the strange and twisted history of this issue by noting that the course had been approved by EPC with the prerequisite, and was listed in the catalog with it as of 1998-99, but it was not listed in the 1999-2000 catalog as such. He noted that since the dropping of the prerequisite was not approved by EPC, it must be reinstated in order for it to get a GER 1 designation.

The chair then moved that the committee ask for documentation to show that the GER prerequisite drop was approved by EPC, in which case the committee will have to take up the questions of whether such an approval should have been allowed, and the committee agreed to do this. The discussion of KINE 394 continued, and Ray McCoy asked how KINE 394 was approved five years ago without the prerequisite for GER1; no answer was forthcoming.

Vote taken on retention of GER1 status for KINE 394; passed unanimously.

Other Business:

The chair conveyed the concerns of Ed Pratt, Dean of Undergraduate Studies, concerning restricting enrollments for GER courses to students in the first two years of study. He noted the notion that GER's should be completed in the first two years was flawed, and that students are much more satisfied if they do not do all of their GER's in the first two years in order to allow them to shop around for majors that suit their interests.

Carl Strikwerda, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences addressed the committee and thanked them for their efforts, and noted with satisfaction that the committee was fulfilling its function as "gatekeepers" of the curriculum.