

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
Curriculum Committee

Wed., Sept. 14, 2005

3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Present: George Vasquez (Assoc. Dean); Peter Chua (Sociology); Katherine Cushing (Environmental Studies); Constantine Danopoulos (Political Science); Roberto Gonzalez (Anthropology); David Helgren (Geography); Paul Kauppila (MLK); Ed Lopez (Economics); Mary Pickering (History); Annabel Prins (Psychology); Curtiss Takeda Rooks (Social Science); Anne Marie Todd (Communication Studies).

Announcements:

Assoc. Dean Vasquez began the meeting welcoming the members and pointing out the Calendar of Meetings. He reminded the committee about the importance of adhering to the calendar with regards to timely submission of materials for committee consideration.

I. The **minutes** from the last meeting of the Curriculum Committee, May 11, 2005, were approved unanimously.

II. Geog 196, Geography of Islam:

Dave Helgren presented the course to the committee, explaining that it will be taught by a temporary lecturer who has completed specific training in this area. It has been coordinated with Religious Studies. The committee made recommendations to make sure required reference materials were available in the library, that the percentages on the greensheets are reviewed, that attendance wording is revised to reflect university policy, and that web references for academic integrity and discipline are included. Dr. Helgren indicated that the greensheet would reflect these changes.

VOTE: approved unanimously.

III. Psyc 196, Social Constructionist Therapies:

Annabel Prins presented this course to the committee. The committee supported the intent of the course, and made some recommendations for improvement of the greensheet and to assist with development of a permanent course proposal at a later date. It was suggested that the syllabus be revised with regards to allocation of grade percentages. It was also recommended that the course description on the syllabus be rewritten to be more explicit. Dr. Prins indicated that the greensheet would be revised prior to submission to Undergraduate Studies.

VOTE: approved unanimously.

IV. Sociology 196N, Understanding and Preventing Intimate Violence in Cultural Contexts: From the Global Arena to the Local Community:

Peter Chua presented this course, explaining that its intent is to be a global class, offering both GE credit and service learning experience. Concern was expressed that perhaps this course expects too much for 3 units, but Dr. Chua explained that the course requirements are appropriate for Sociology. He mentioned that the course also requires extensive writing because it is intended to eventually fulfill a GE requirement.

It was recommended that Sociology coordinate this course more fully with Psychology.

VOTE: approved unanimously with the caveat that a Psychology equivalent not be offered at the same time.

V. Envs 154, Sustainable Agriculture:

Katherine Cushing discussed this course. She explained that the purpose of the course is to give students a holistic learning experience. Unique aspects of the course include utilizing garden space on campus and learning to put together posters for conferences. Dr. O'Malley has been teaching this course, however, there are other members of the Department who could teach it as well. It is a topic of significant interest both in the department and in the field, i.e., organic foods. The committee recommended that Environmental Studies needs to consult Geography when potential course overlap may involve them, and to be cautious that the class format does not change in a manner such that it could duplicate a geography offering.

VOTE: approved unanimously.

VI. New Major – Foreign Language and International Economics (FLIE):

Lydia Ortega and Dominique Van Hooff, chair of the Foreign Language Department discussed this new major that was first introduced last spring. The new major is being designed to meet the needs and interests of a select group of students interested in international economics and foreign languages. Dr. Ortega explained that the combination of the two areas, i.e., Economics and Foreign Languages, into a single major, would offer a change for the student interested in international economics, to be able to include significant and vital foreign language-learning experience into his or her curriculum, without having to complete all the units of a double major.

The committee expressed that the idea behind development of this major is both interesting and potentially beneficial to our students' interests. However, the following concerns were expressed.

1. The course proposal appears to be an essentially unrevised resubmission from last spring.

2. The proposal does not explain how the two departments actually merge their requirements into a unique major, vs. simply a double major or a major/minor.

3. Dr. Van Hooff explained that the cohesiveness between the courses of each department is covered by both a portfolio and an exit interview. The economics thesis presented in the foreign language would be the capstone experience.

4. Overall, the committee wanted to see a proposal written that better explained the uniqueness and cohesiveness of the new degree, providing a better rationale for the creation of a new major. The goal of the new major needs to be made apparent in the written proposal. In addition, unique introductory and capstone courses and/or experiences should be integral to the proposal. And finally, the committee also requested that the proposed major be presented to the Humanities and the Arts Curriculum Committee prior to or in conjunction with resubmission to the COSS Curriculum Committee.