

University Committee on Curriculum Planning
April 24, 2001, 3:30 pm
Library Conference Room

Present: Fred Lohrengel, Steve Evans, Verlinda Angell, Terry Lewis, Kim Craft, John Ault, Maxine Stolk, Mike Richards, Chair Diana Graff, Secretary Sheri Butler

Excused: Suzanne Larson

Meeting was called to order and call for approval of minutes made by the chair. *Corrections were noted and motion to approve was made by F. Lohrengel and seconded by K. Craft. All agreed.*

GE Draft

The valuing category was approved in the last meeting. The committee discussed interdisciplinary courses as a separate category. The present structure severely limits integration of interdisciplinary courses. If interdisciplinary courses were a separate area, it forces faculty to develop them. Some members of the committee did not want to see interdisciplinary courses as required. The question arises as to which department gets the SCH and faculty teaching credit for the courses.

GE is limited to courses that are not major or minor specific. The following issues about interdisciplinary courses were raised: These could turn into great courses and if we include this area, our faculty could really come up with some interesting courses that may generate enthusiasm for teaching. If there are five boxes in the knowledge area, does this create a requirement for interdisciplinary courses? Do we need these to be taught between colleges or between disciplines in the college? If we include the word "innovative" this would also give the faculty a place that does not have to be tied to a department or discipline for a course that they want to create? Are all students required to take one interdisciplinary course?

Motion was made by V. Angell that we have a category in the knowledge area for interdisciplinary courses. Motion seconded by J. Ault. Motion carried.

The next discussion was whether or not the interdisciplinary course should be required. The concern is about SCH and which department gets the credit for teaching. There are no administrative barriers that would prohibit the development of interdisciplinary courses. An interdisciplinary course supports the criteria that we have set earlier in the document.

F. Lohrengel made a motion that we have five areas in the knowledge category: Arts, B&SS, Humanities, Science and Interdisciplinary with a requirement of one course from each area and no more than two in any one area. Seconded by V. Angell. Motion carried.

Discussion was held as to whether or not a person was able to take GE courses from their major department. Another approach at other institutions would allow some (perhaps 6) that could be used in their major. This presents the problem for the student that changes their major along the

way or for a student who is in a major that requires all 1000 level courses for their major. These courses could be moved out of the major and made prerequisites to the major. Then GE courses are not required in the major and could be taken in the GE. This decision was deferred until a future time.

The current practice is: when a course is added to GE, the department must remove a course from GE. How would this affect the interdisciplinary courses? Some on the committee feel that making a department drop a GE course in order to add one is very limiting. The burden for coming up with instructional resources to teach new courses is on the department. This committee must tell departments up front that new courses are taught with existing resources or they can reallocate within the department. We just approve courses! The deans can make their own decisions as to whether they approve a course or not after it has passed this committee. A statement should be added that states "approval of this committee does not commit resources."

J. Ault brought a statement from Jon Smith that rewords the communication area. We do not have to act on this right now as we have already stated that departments have until fall to offer changes.

Mike will make a new revision reflecting the changes in the GE Curriculum boxes. Then it will be distributed to the faculty along with a call for submittals for all GE courses. The statement will be included that this is a draft document approved in this committee but has not been approved by the dean's counsel.

Meeting adjourned at 5:05pm. Have a nice summer.