

## MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 26, 2016, MEETING OF THE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

**Location:** Gardiner 104

**Present:** Simona Bertacco (chair), Matt Church, Bill Cunningham, Paul Himes, Changbing Hu, Dwain Pruitt, Edna Ross

**Absent:** Maria Delane, Charlie Zhang

**Guests:** Tomarra Adams (Pan-African Studies), Carol Hanchette (Geography and Geosciences), Wes Partin (Admissions), David Simpson (Urban and Public Affairs)

The meeting was convened at 2:01 PM.

The minutes of the December 8, 2015, meeting were unanimously approved.

**01-15F:** Dr. David Simpson presented PLAN 380, a proposed undergraduate special topics course designed to mirror UPA's graduate special topics course. The committee unanimously **APPROVED** the course's creation. The course will be designed as a Social Science elective for undergraduates.

**01-16S:** Dr. Tomarra Adams presented the Department of Pan-African Studies' proposed two revisions to its graduate program. First, PAS proposes to eliminate the examination option from its MA program. The department's graduate committee and faculty feel that requiring students to complete a thesis is "a more appropriate end product [for] a [master's]-level program and that writing a thesis "serves as a springboard for students" interested in pursuing a doctoral degree. Second, PAS wishes to change its doctoral examination sequence to streamline the process. During the ensuing discussion, Dr. Pruitt noted some unclear language that the department might wish to clarify in the first paragraph of its proposed new policy language on doctoral examinations. Dr. Adams noted the suggested change and agreed to correct the sentence. Dr. Himes pointed out a problematic editing gremlin that described the comprehensive examination as both take-home and closed-book. Dr. Adams affirmed that the examination is closed-book and will make appropriate corrections. The committee **APPROVED** the proposed changes to the PAS graduate program pending submission of a revised document reflecting the recommended changes.

**02-16S:** Dr. Carol Hanchette presented the Department of Geography and Geosciences' proposed revisions to its MS in Applied Geography. The department wishes to add a non-thesis option for students who are interested in using the technological knowledge they gain to enhance professional opportunities. Dr. Hanchette noted that other master's-level graduate programs in geography at peer institutions have non-thesis options. The committee briefly discussed the non-thesis program's expectations of students pursuing a master's degree, which include the creation of two publishable papers, a conference presentation, and comprehensive examination. The proposed changes to the MS in Applied Geography were **APPROVED**.

**03-16S:** The Curriculum Committee **APPROVED** the acceptance of AICE scores for transfer credit in A&S. The following equivalencies have been approved with departmental consent:

- English Language = Engl 101 (Grade of A, B, or C)
- English Literature = Engl 250 (Grade of A, B, or C)
- Psychology = Psys 200XGENSB (Grade of A, B, or C)
- Art and Design = Art 100X (Grade of A, B, or C)
- Mathematics = Math 190 and Math 205 (Grade of A or B)
- Mathematics = Math 190 (Grade of C)
- Global Perspectives and Research = UNIV 100X (Students will petition the Cultural Diversity Gen Ed Committee for CD 1 or 2 credit)
- History = Hist 102 (Grade of A or B)

**04-16S:** The Curriculum Committee **APPROVED** the Department of English's request that hours earned for ENGL 202 not be counted in computing the 40 hours for an English major.

**05-16S:** The addition of ENGL 508, "Literacy Tutoring across Contexts and Cultures—WR, CUE" was **APPROVED**.

**06-16S:** The Curriculum Committee **APPROVED** Asian Studies' request that ML 310, "Japanese Culture through Film," be added as an humanities elective option in the Asian Studies BA.

**07-16S:** The Curriculum Committee **APPROVED** Asian Studies' request that HIST 584 and HIST 584 be added as options for the Graduate Certificate in Asian Studies.

**08-16S:** The committee discussed the Undergraduate Council's proposed changes to six undergraduate catalog policies. Overall, the committee viewed the proposed changes favorably, supporting efforts to make policy more streamlined and comprehensible. There were, however, areas in which the committee echoed recommendations from Assistant Dean Danielle Dolan for additions, clarifications and/or revisions in the proposals.

- **Course Repeat policy:** The committee shared Assistant Dean Dolan's recommendation that language be added explicitly informing students that grades earned in repeated courses may be used in calculating expanded GPAs for determining academic honors depending on the unit. The committee also embraced Matt Church's recommendation that language be inserted cautioning students against using all of their repeats early in their academic careers. The committee acknowledged concern that the new policy would allow students to repeat courses in which they earned grades of A or B, but the general consensus was that such repeats were unlikely to occur frequently.
- **Academic Bankruptcy:** The committee recommended that the policy be revisited to make explicit whether the proposed academic remediation program would be taken for credit and what the consequences for failing to complete the remediation program would be. The committee also recommended that language making it explicitly clear that a student cannot use both Academic Bankruptcy and a Fresh Start be added.
- **Pass/Fail:** The committee recommended that language stating that students may not complete "program requirements" on a pass/fail basis be changed to read "programmatic requirements" to ensure that students understand that required courses may not be taken pass/fail.
- **Incomplete Coursework:** The committee agreed with Assistant Dean Dolan that advisors should receive copies of contracts between students seeking incompletes and faculty members.
- **Contact with Advisors:** **The committee strongly recommends that the proposed revisions ALL include the language encouraging students to speak with an academic advisor to consider available options before making any decisions.**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dwain C. Pruitt, Ph.D.  
Assistant Dean for Curriculum and Governance  
Prepared February 26, 2016

College of Arts and Sciences  
Curriculum Committee  
February 26, 2016  
230 Gardiner  
2:00 PM

### AGENDA

- 1) Approval of Minutes of December 8, 2015, Meeting
- 2) Old Business (available on the Curriculum Committee's Sharepoint site)
  - [01-15F](#): Addition of PLAN 380, "Special Topics in Urban Planning"
- 3) New Business (available on the Curriculum Committee's Sharepoint site)
  - [01-16S](#): Proposed changes to PAS' graduate program (removal of examination option from MA and change in doctoral examination sequence)
  - [02-16S](#): Proposed changes to MS in Applied Geography (creation on non-thesis option, program language revision to reflect proposed change)
  - [03-16S](#): Creation of credit policy language for AICE examinations
  - [04-16S](#): Proposed change to ENGL major (exclusion of credits earned in ENGL 202 from counting towards the undergraduate major)
  - [05-16S](#): Addition of ENGL 508, "Literacy Tutoring WR CUE"
  - [06-16S](#): Proposed change to the undergraduate Asian Studies curriculum (inclusion of ML 310 as an humanities elective option in the major and the minor)
  - [07-16S](#): Proposed change to the Graduate Certificate in Asian Studies (inclusion of HIST 584 and HIST 598 as elective options)
  - [08-16S](#): Proposal from the Undergraduate Council to revise six undergraduate catalog policies