

Meeting of the Curriculum Committee
October 18, 2024
Minutes

Committee: Present: Matt Church, Calvin Coker, Jordan Gabbard, Gregory Hutcheson, Lenore Hoyt, Ryan Luke, Dana Seay, *Absent:* Aiden Johnson, Jason Sievers. *Guests:* Steve Sohn, Karen Chandler

The meeting was convened at 2:00. After a unanimous vote to approve the minutes, the committee noted the absence of a representative from Art, but the presence of representatives from English and Communication, offered a possible reorganization in the new business. The conversation occurred as followed:

022-24F: New Program: 3+3 English BA to Law JD. Dr. Chandler explained the motivation for implementing the program, mainly that a not insignificant amount of students in English were preparing for admission to Law School, and the formalization of this program alongside programs like Comm, Philosophy, Political Science, and WGSS would serve a small but meaningful population with very few additional resources needed. The committee asked a series of logistical questions in terms of how a student resolves the BA and the JD concurrently, and what was not answered by Dr. Chandler was supplemented from information by Matt Church and his general familiarity with the programs.

015-019 24F: Communication New Course Proposals

Given the large number of new classes, we offered Dr. Sohn the chance to explain and clarify the relationship between these programs and existing curriculum. He indicated that the AI courses were part of a new minor in the department and had already been taught as special topics courses. The other three courses, 334, 353, and 354, are routinely offered special topics courses which made, and were desirable permanent options. Committee member concerns centered around the following:

- How does the expansion of electives fit into a flight plan for graduation? Dr. Sohn mentioned the new minors as an animating force for two of the courses, and the inability for a special topic to reliably have a cardinal core designation. The final two classes, 353 and 354, also fit into existing minors and demand has been strong.
- Will there be sufficient demand to ensure these courses are making routinely? Based on the preceding years, these classes as special topics have attracted a requisite number of students. That, combined with the new minors, should buoy enrollment.
- Some logistical elements including a.) the need to better explain the CUE criteria for the 442 class, b.) significant additions regarding textbook, timeline, and assignment criteria, and c.) ensuring that that 334 is prepared to get the SBD1 designation.

At the end of this conversation, Greg requested an agenda item be placed for November concerning if a section of the CIM form could include a question concerning how a given course fits into a flight plan for the department.

As a final note, the committee determined that, as currently presented, ART306 would be passed but ART 516 would not, as ART516 was a carbon copy of the ART306. The committee elected to postpone voting on those items until a representative from the art department could apprise us of the differences and clarify the respective syllabi.

Following the exit of the guests, a poll was circulated with the following results.

015-24F- New Course Proposal: COMM 307 AI and Digital Communication. PASS 7 Yay, 0 Nay, 0 Abstention

016-24F- New Course Proposal: COMM 334 Decoding Disney: Race Gender and Class in Disney- SBD1 PASS 7 Yay, 0 Nay, 0 Abstention

017-24F- New Course Proposal: COMM 353: Podcast: Digital Storytelling PASS 7 Yay, 0 Nay, 0 Abstention

018-24F- New Course Proposal: COMM 354: Event Planning PASS 7 Yay, 0 Nay, 0 Abstention

019-24F- New Course Proposal: COMM 442: How artificial intelligence is shaping the future of communication-CUE PASS 7 Yay, 0 Nay, 0 Abstention

022-24F- New Program: 3+3 English BA to Law JD PASS 7 Yay, 0 Nay, 0 Abstention

Discussion:

Changing Day/Time. The committee spend roughly five minutes determining if moving the standing meeting time up one hour would solve many of the logistical issues experienced by folks with other committee obligations or childcare conflicts. The committee voted unanimously to move each meeting that beings at 2 PM to simply begin at 1 PM. Greg requested that this change be reflected on subsequent agenda, including changing the year markers for FA/SP.

Cardinal Core SLO- The balance of the conversation was spent discussing the nature of our committee's request to the Cardinal Core Committee to audit their Student Learning Objectives. Members initially voiced confusion at the following questions:

- Is what we are asking in the scope of the charge for our committee, and for the Cardinal Core Committee? If not, who would be in charge of this audit?
- How has the request morphed over time? Jordan, Greg, and Ryan all indicated that prior requests from Dean Touran were not exactly consonant with the current understanding of the Curriculum Committee's request. We were unable to establish a good paper trail to understand the change over time.

The decision from the committee was to postpone any decisions about the content of the request to our large meeting on December 4th, where we would be able to invite Beth Wiley to explain their stance on the CC SLOs and clarify which SLOs constitute binding expectations, and which, like the 10 core skills from the CPE, were suggestions. The interim goal, then, is the construction of context and the timeline in terms of how the request has changed, in large part to clarify what exactly we want the request to the CC Committee to be.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15.