

**MINUTES OF THE CURRICULUM AND POLICY COMMITTEE
OF THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS,
MEETING NO. 356, 21 October 2004
VENTRESS HALL**

Present: Dr. Glenn Hopkins (Dean), Professor Jan Murray (Associate Dean), Dr. Ronald Vernon (Associate Dean), Dr. Holly Reynolds (Assistant Dean), LTC Kevin Petesch (Aerospace Studies), Dr. Murray Nabors (Biology), Dr. Charles Hussey (Chemistry), Dr. Mark van Boening (Economics), Dr. Joseph Urgo (English), Dr. R. P. Major (Geology), Dr. Mary Carruth (Gender Studies), Dr. Bob Haws (History), Dr. Michael Metcalf (International Studies), Dr. Kathleen Wickham for Dr. Samir Husni (Journalism), Lt. Col. Joseph Blackburn (Military Science), Dr. Don Dyer (Modern Languages), Dr. Tom Marshall (Physics), Dr. Tristan Denley (Mathematics), Dr. Steve Brown (Music), ?????? (Naval Science), Dr. Michael Harrington (Philosophy and Religion), Dr. Rich Forgette (Political Science), Dr. Michael Allen (Psychology), Dr. David Swanson (Sociology/Anthropology), Dr. Charles Wilson (Southern Studies), Dr. Scott McCoy (Theatre Arts), Dr. Lucien Cremaldi (Category I representative)

Absent: Dr. Charles Ross (African American Studies), Dr. Aileen Ajootian (Classics), Dr. Dawn Wilkins (Computer Science), Dr. Fred Laurenzo (Category II representative), and Dr. Tim Nordstrom (Category III representative)

The following course additions, changes, and deletions were approved by the committee.

I. COURSE ADDITIONS, CHANGES, AND DELETIONS

BIOLOGY

Add: BISC 418. INTRODUCTION TO MOLECULAR SYSTEMATICS. A comprehensive survey of the theory and methodology of molecular systematics as applied to all groups of organisms, with practical experience in the analysis of molecular data. Prerequisite: BISC 336. (4).

Add: BISC 436. HUMAN AND VERTEBRATE GENETICS. The genetics of human and vertebrate species will be explored using classical, molecular, genomic and evolutionary comparative approaches. Bioethics and genetic counseling will also be covered. Prerequisite: BISC 336. (3).

Add: BISC 445. ECOTOXICOLOGY. This course will explore the broad conceptual framework for evaluating the effects of chemicals on organisms, populations, ecosystems and the effects on the global environment. Prerequisites: BISC 330, 322 and CHEM 321, 322. (3).

Add: BISC 618. MOLECULAR SYSTEMATICS. Advanced instruction in the methodology and logic of molecular systematics with emphasis on the analysis, presentation, and publication of systematic data. (4)

ENGLISH

Add: ENGL 325. SURVEY OF NATIVE AMERICAN LITERATURE. (3).

II. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Dean Hopkins informed the committee members that the College would put forward a policy on the November C&P agenda that would reduce the total number of hours from 126 to 124 for the B.A. and B.S. degrees. Ron

Vernon is responsible for working with the B.F.A. and B.A. degree programs on their strategy for meeting or requesting an exception from this rule.

2. Dean Hopkins led a discussion on whether the College should revise its lower-division requirement in natural science for the B.A. degree. The discussion centered on the course offerings from the Department of Physics and Astronomy. Currently, students may not count physics and astronomy as the “same area” of science. A student may not satisfy her science requirement by taking one astronomy course, one physics course, and one biology course. Concern was expressed about student confusion on this rule and that problems arise with transfer students. Dr. Marshall (Physics) also suggested that “physical science” be removed from the list of possibilities because PHYS 107 (Introduction to Physical Science) is essentially a physics course without much mathematics content. It was decided that the College will propose a change in this rule for the next C&P meeting.
3. Dean Hopkins asked the committee to consider the new process of lifting advisor holds. The current campus management system does not allow the advisor hold to be lifted by individual faculty members. Instead, it can only be removed by the College and Department Chairs. What process has been adopted in each department? Does each department wish for individual advisors to have this capability? Questions were raised by the committee about advisor lists not being correct, the privacy of student records, whether the computer system can track the degree progress of students, and the possibility of separating the task of course selection from student mentorship.
4. Dean Hopkins requested that the committee members critique their departmental webpages. Professor Murray and Wayne Shaw have offered to help departments make technical and design revisions to their webpages.
5. Assistant Dean Reynolds reminded the committee members that summer research grant requests are due November 15. In addition, she stated that a number of institutional assessment reports were overdue.
6. Dean Hopkins asked whether the departments had explicitly discussed issues surrounding what courses may be most appropriate for intersession (winter and may intersession). A number of opinions were expressed by the committee members: lab versus non-laboratory science courses, upper-level courses versus lower-division, survey courses; performance or studio courses versus lecture courses; and travel opportunities for students. Some committee members were against intersession courses because students would not have time to absorb the ideas. Others suggested that some junior faculty welcomed the opportunity for earning extra income. Suggestions were made about departments creating courses specifically designed for the intersession period instead of retrofitting existing courses into that timeframe. Dean Hopkins reiterated that no department should offer courses that are not academically sound. A comment was made that this discussion was similar to that of branch-campus quality control issues: we should hold ourselves to the same standards.
7. A committee member raised the issue of the on-line faculty application system. He was informed that applicants could view all materials posted on the website for their application, including the letters of recommendation. The committee discussed a number of matters relating to this new application system for faculty: incomplete applications not being posted and the search committee not being notified, two positions being listed together in one site, needing contact information on the website if the applicant has problems using the system, whether the new on-line system significantly restricted the number of applicants, the possibility of only posting a letter and cv on-line and sending the rest of the application materials directly to the department, visa and social security number issues for foreign applicants, and MAC users having difficulty with the Human Resources website. Dean Hopkins will have the College office discuss these matters with the appropriate person in Human Resources.