

## **Curricular Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes for 7 March 2012**

Voting Members present: Rainer Newberry (Chair); Jungho Baek; Retchenda George-Bettisworth; Cindy Hardy; Brian Himelbloom (audio); Diane McEachern (audio); Todd Radenbaugh (audio); Dave Valentine, Jun Watabe.

Voting Members absent: Anthony Arendt

Non-voting Members present: Donald Crocker; Libby Eddy; Carol Gering; Ginnie Kinne; Dana Thomas. Non-member Jayne Harvie took notes.

### **1. Approve minutes from previous meeting**

Minutes for February 22 were approved as submitted.

### **2. Report from subcommittee: GERC - Alex Fitts**

Alex provided a written report from the March 7 GERC meeting (copy attached), and described in more depth the issues being tackled by the committee.

### **3. Review of 4 new Minors**

#### **This is from the Dept of Geography, which currently lists a minor in ‘geography’**

A. New Minor--[Geographic Information Systems \(GIS\)](#): 17 credits comprised of GEOG F111X, GEOG/GEOS F222 (new course - has been approved); GEOG F309; GEOG F338, and one course from among GEOG F435, GEOG F430, NRM F369, or GEOG F300; effective Fall 2012.

#### **These three are from the Dept Geology and Geophysics, which currently has a minor in ‘geology’**

B. New Minor - [Paleontology](#): 16-20 credits comprised of GEOS F101X, GEOS F112X; and three electives chosen from GEOS F315W, GEOS F322, GEOS F317O (new course), GEOS F453, GEOS F486 and GEOS F485 (new course).

C. New Minor - [Geospatial Sciences](#): 19 credits comprised of GEOS F101X, GEOS F112X, GEOS/GEOG F222 (new course), GEOS F225, GEOS F458, and GEOS F422; effective Fall 2012.

D. New Minor - [Geophysics](#): 21 credits comprised of GEOS F101X, GEOS F112X, GEOS F377O (new course), GEOS F318, GEOS F406, and GEOS F431; effective Fall 2012.

*Note: Minors # A and C are similar, but certainly not identical. One MIGHT argue that they duplicate each other (might) but the cost of running a minor, especially one that will be practically never used, is tiny.*

The committee briefly discussed the question about how many minors a program may have. Geology would have four minors, should all three of theirs be passed. Rainer noted that the Curriculum Review Committee did not take issue with that fact.

When asked why three minors would be offered, Rainer responded that why was not the issue, noting that the major degrees are not impacted by minors in terms of student enrollment.

Dana advocated in support of the new GIS minor, especially in light of the fact that the Geography program has a B.A. degree.

Dave V. observed that the proposed minors are already options in the existing major. Discussion followed on the similarities between the GIS minor and the Geospatial Sciences minor. Further discussion was postponed to the next meeting.

#### **4. The new 'Directed Study' form**

The committee examined the existing Individual Study approval form which had been modified at the Registrar's Office to include instructions and fields for the new category of Directed Study (just approved at the March 5 Faculty Senate meeting).

The committee members made many suggestions for modifying both the form fields and the instructions. Adding a line for the requisite Dean's signature was strongly suggested so that workload issues might be addressed.

The committee requested that a revised draft based upon their suggestions be brought to the next meeting for their review.

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March 7, 2012  
GERC update

GERC is currently discussing the Arts/ Humanities/ Social Sciences portion of the curriculum, weighing the needs to 1) comply with Board of Regents requirements; 2) incorporate some of the approved student learning outcomes into this area; and 3) make the core more flexible for all students, especially transfer students (while ideally cutting the number of required credits).

The Board of Regents require:

Humanities/Social Sciences (15 credits minimum)

- at least 3 credits in the arts
- at least 3 credits in general humanities
- at least 6 credits in the social sciences, from 2 different disciplines

- We are in agreement to require 3 credits of Arts from approved list that are "an introduction to the visual arts and performing arts as academic disciplines as opposed to those that emphasize acquisition of skills."
- Most agree to require Ethics (perhaps a choice between Ethics and a course involving community-based learning)- this fulfills the "civic engagement" learning outcome.
- Still to be decided: Social Sciences/ Humanities. Options that have been discussed include allowing any (s) or (h) class to count, or putting courses under different designators or lists like G for global or AK for Alaskan issues. Students would need to choose a certain number of credits from each list to meet both BOR requirements and cover certain learning outcomes. We are not sure how to incorporate languages, other than as an option under general humanities.