

Curricular Affairs Committee Minutes for 1 April 2013

Voting Members present: Rainer Newberry, Chair and MVP; Ken Abramowicz; Retchenda George-Bettisworth; Karen Gustafson (phone); Cindy Hardy; Sarah Hardy (phone); David Henry; Todd Radenbaugh (phone); Diane McEachern (phone). Jonathan Rosenberg reported for GERC (phone).

Non-voting members: Libby Eddy; Lillian Misel; Carol Gering; Alex Fitts; Doug Goering (phone); Jayne Harvie (taking notes)

1. MINUTES OF 18 March were approved as submitted.

2. Report on GERC from J Rosenberg and (or) Cindy Hardy

Jonathan R. reported that two models are being included in a report that should be available to CAC at their next meeting. The models will demonstrate how the new learning outcomes satisfy the General Education requirements. He noted there are no big surprises.

Cindy H. reported that GERC has not talked about the AA and AAS topics as they relate to GE requirements. There are still some questions about the new "designators" such as civic engagement. Broader input from more faculty is needed. Alex F. commented that the goal is to have the GenEd requirements met with the courses carrying special designators, and not adding new things to the baccalaureate core requirements.

Rainer noted the business of GERC will carry over to next fall. Alex noted that the problem of turn-over has been problematic from year to year of this ongoing work in progress.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. – Request from the Registrar's office

DF Deferred – "This designation is used for courses such as theses and special projects, which require more than one semester to complete. It indicates that course requirements cannot be completed or when institutional equipment breakdown resulted in non-completion by the end of the semester. Credit may be withheld without penalty until the course requirements are met within an approved time." (OE's underline)

From the Registrar: "As we clean up and crack down on some policies that have become lax, we've found several departments within CRCD that use DF grades for their undergraduate students that are on a student's transcripts for literally years. These become problematic when a student is up for graduation and it turns out the instructor for the course has moved on and there is no grade information for the student.

We would like CAC to discuss setting a time limit on DF grades so that the Office of Admissions and the Registrar can obtain grades for students in a timelier fashion rather than the ambiguous within an approved time that it currently reads."

Lili Misel described the current problem the Registrar's Office is having with the grade of DF (deferred). It is mainly a problem in CRCD with about 5-6 students every year. They are given a DF by the instructor, and later when the students are ready to graduate, there is no instructor still around to assign a real grade.

Unlike Incomplete grades, there is no form the instructors have to fill out. The Office of Admissions and the Registrar (OAR) cannot track them. Cindy H. asked if this was a problem with mixed mode courses (i.e., vocational ed). Lili responded that those haven't been a problem; it's mainly been a problem with health courses.

Diane M. suggested taking the matter to the CRCD Academic Council and have them appropriately address the problem. Cindy H. said she would Lili and Libby to the next council meeting. There was discussion about implementing some sort of timeline for DF. It was pointed out that the (appropriate) use of DF is very different in the Graduate School. A timeline might not work so well for them. Cindy spoke in support of implementing some sort of paper trail to make it possible to track them. Rainer asked for a proposal for the next CAC meeting in two weeks after the CRCD academic council has met and discussed this. The matter was...deferred.

B. Preliminary request for deletion of Minor in Leadership & Civic Engagement (are there ANY bizarre unintended consequences???)

The Minor in Leadership and Civic Engagement was conceived as a program that would prepare students to be leaders in the north. The electives allowed students to prepare for leadership roles in local / state, national or international arenas.

Note: we envisioned that as the program grew we would receive additional funding and I would teach the Leadership course rather than one of my other courses. However this vision never materialized.

The Minor in Leadership and Civic Engagement was developed in the context of consideration of a Ph.D. Program in Leadership at UAF. Dr. Joseph Kan, Dean of the Graduate School encouraged those discussions. However, faculty concluded that without a single recognized expert in the field of Leadership Studies at UAF, we did not have the expertise amongst our faculty to support such a program.

Some faculty engaged in these discussions, along with Dr. Kan, came to the conclusion that a Minor in Leadership Development would prepare students for leadership roles in the north, and the Northern Studies Program was designated as an appropriate home for the program. Dr. Judith Kleinfeld and I shared a \$5,000 stipend for developing the program. We developed the proposal for the Minor, which drew upon courses in Political Science, History and Rural Development for its electives. We designed the introductory course: NORS 205: Leadership, Citizenship and Choice and the capstone course: NORS 486: Senior Seminar in Leadership and Civic Engagement. The capstone course placed students in internships and required readings that connected their internship experiences with theories in leadership.

Dr. Kleinfeld and I team taught Leadership, Citizenship and Choice twice with 15 and 13 students. I later taught the course with 10 and 5 students, the second time without compensation. I taught the capstone to 6 students as individual studies. All of them graduated with the Minor in Leadership and Civic Engagement.

There has been low demand for the Minor and low demand for the courses. Moreover, we noted that many of the students who were attracted to NORS 205: Leadership, Citizenship and Choice were more interested in the social aspects of leadership than in serious academic analysis of leadership theory.

We determined after a few years that there was neither a demand for the Minor nor the resources available within the Northern Studies Program or the College of Liberal Arts to continue offering the program. The School of Management no longer requires the Minor in Leadership and Civic Engagement for its Bachelor of Emergency Management degree program.

More information:

The School of Management is currently working on a (completely?) different Minor in Leadership to be 'housed' in SOM instead of CLA.

Key question: is there any reason to not go ahead and accept the request to delete??

Rainer asked for discussion to help explore if there would be any unintended consequences from approving this program elimination. The committee observed it had rested on the shoulders of only two faculty, one of whom has since retired. Cindy noted that deleting this minor is at odds with the GERC actions that include creating a new Civic Engagement designator.

Alex noted a troubling precedent of eliminating the program due to lack of funding and faculty resources. Ken A. observed that this minor was taught before the Northern Leadership Center was created at the School of Management. There would be a lot of support for such a minor in SOM. He suggested that language be added in any motion to eliminate this program that it will be replaced.

Cindy is going to talk with Mary E. about this matter. Ken will follow up with Kevin Berry and Nicole Cundiff. Alex will speak with Dean Sherman about the proposed elimination of the program.

We will act on this in two weeks