

Curricular Affairs Committee Draft Minutes for Weds 29 October 2014 3-4 pm Reich 300

Present: Ken Abramowicz; Casey Byrne; Brian Cook; Rob Duke; Alex Fitts (ex officio); Doug Goering (ex officio; audio); Cathy Hanks; Cindy Hardy; Linda Hapsmith; Joan Hornig (audio); Dennis Moser; Rainer Newberry – Chair; Holly Sherouse; Jayne Harvie

- I. **Approve minutes of Oct 15 meeting** – minutes were approved.
- II. **Old business**

A. what to do about C/O/W??

Alex noted this is still being discussed at GERC.

B. Discussion item at next Fac Senate meeting (Adcomm wanted to turn the motions into ‘resolutions’ and the Fac Senate Pres wants discussion item ONLY. Here’s the item

In order to move UAF General Education Requirements so that they more closely resemble those of UAA and UAS, UAF will almost certainly need to change its GERS to a scheme similar to that below by Fall 2016. UAA and UAS take the ‘bucket list’ approach for the liberal arts GERS. UAF has specific course requirements (‘the core’). It’s easier for UAF to change to the UAS-UAA system than vice-versa. Given that, we might as well go ahead and plan to do so. The specific size and shape of the buckets will need to be negotiated.

Current Requirement	Possible change to resemble UAA/UAS
HIST F100X--Modern World History ECON/PS F100X--Political Economy ANTH/SOC F100X—Individual, Society and Culture	Two Introductory courses in two different social sciences
ENGL/FL F200X--World Literatures	An introductory course in the humanities (which could be a foreign language course)
ART/MUS/THR F200X, HUMS F201X, ANS F202X-- Aesthetic Appreciation	an introductory course in the arts (the nature of which is under discussion)
BA F323X, COMM F300X, JUST F300X, NRM F303X, PHIL F322X, PS F300X--Ethics	An additional social science, humanities, or Arts course
1 Math + 2 lab natural science lab courses	1 Math + 1 Nat Sci lab course + an additional Math or Nat science course

We discussed the question about whether or not CAC can get a Bucket List ready if Faculty Alliance hasn’t moved on changing the GERS yet. Can the bucket list approach be phased in? No one knows yet how UAA and UAS feel about this idea, or even how UAF feels about it. CAC would like more information from Faculty Alliance. Cindy suggested inviting David V. to CAC to hear our ideas. Ken suggested talking with UAA and UAS directly about this idea. Rainer will ask the Faculty Senate if they want to have bucket lists ready by fall 2016. Currently, it doesn’t appear that UAA and UAS would move away from their current bucket lists. The next hurdle, following this one, is course alignment.

There was much discussion concerning the idea of bucket lists and what their size and shape might be. We all agreed that rules are needed in order to make any forward progress on this front.

C. What to do about the 'Arts' requirement Brian Cook put together some thoughts (pg 3) Multiple proposed definitions are out there. Somehow UAF-UAA-UAS need to decide what definition works best, i.e., is clear and has the fewest negative impacts. Unfortunately, it would seem that the version that's been sitting with Faculty Alliance is not the best one. Discussion of 'best' wording and how to get that to folks???

D. What to do about 'History' = soc sci vs. humanities. RJN took the liberty of emailing the chair and asked him to start a dialog concerning such.

In all cases, only the bold sections are different:

Current BOR regulation:

"... those that provide the student with an introduction to the **visual arts and performing arts** as academic disciplines as opposed to those that emphasize acquisition of skills."

Rainer's proposed change:

"... those that provide the student with an introduction to the **visual arts and performing arts** as academic disciplines as opposed to those that **only** emphasize acquisition of skills."

GELO report:

"Courses that fulfill this requirement introduce the student to **the methods and context of the arts** as academic disciplines as opposed to those that only emphasize acquisition of skills."

- What does "context of the arts" mean? – I have no idea.

GERC report:

"Courses that fulfill this requirement introduce the student **to the theory, methods and practice of the arts** as academic disciplines as opposed to those that only emphasize acquisition of skills."

- What is "practice"?

I think GERC is using practice in lieu of the word "praxis," learning the history/theory about something and applying it. My argument is that by including the word "practice" in the definition, it ensures that arts courses are more than just general "arts appreciation" courses, but actually engage students in the creation of the things that they are studying.

- What is "the acquisition of skills"?

I think of this as one of the steps to practicing something, coming after learning theory and history. You learn the theory, you learn the skills, and then when you truly "practice" you display it for public consumption and are subject to critique.

The function of considering achievements in the arts equivalent to scholarly research and presentations is already accepted under the Unit Criteria for the various arts departments. Based on current unit criteria, this would mean that "practice" in arts courses could include:

- Writing scholarly papers, reviews, or articles about the arts (focused on history or theory)
- Writing a play or screenplay
- Presentation of academic-style papers
- Creating or developing equipment or processes for art-making
- Creation of original visual art (designs, painting, drawing, sculpting, etc.) and their exhibition

As opposed to just "learning how" to draw or paint or sculpt or design, students would actually put the knowledge into practice and display their work.

- Performances using musical instruments or vocals in recitals or productions

Again, as opposed to just "learning how" to play the instrument, this would involve publicly demonstrating the skills a student has acquired [likely difficult for a one-semester arts course]

- Performances in acting scenes or plays
- Doing dramaturgical research work towards the production of a play or film
- Designing lights, scenery, costumes, sound or projections for a play or film
- Directing a theatre or film production

RJN: does this mean that 'practice' includes writing term papers? If so, does an art or music or theater appreciation or history course with a term paper fall under the GERC definition?