

Curricular Affairs Committee
Meeting Minutes for November 25, 2015, 1-2:30 pm

Present: Ken Abramowicz, Casey Byrne, Jennie Carroll (Chair), Mike Earnest, Alex Fitts, Doug Goering, Catherine Hanks, Cindy Hardy, Eileen Harney, Jayne Harvie, Lisa Lunn, Rainer Newberry, Caty Oehring, Patrick Plattet, Holly Sherouse

Absent: Ginny Kinne, Jenny Liu,

1. Approval/Amendment of Agenda

The agenda was approved.

2. Approval of minutes from November 11

Minutes for November 11 were approved.

3. Old Business

a. Minor in Major Motion – update from Alex/Holly

Holly noted that more time was needed to look into how OAR would code the information in Banner. Discussion was deferred until the next meeting.

4. New Business

a. CAC GER Subcommittee Report from November 18 (attached)

i. Approval of guidelines

The committee approved the guidelines with some minor revisions (e.g., move “Course must be 100 or 200 level” to near or at the top of the numbered lists). The guidelines have adhered strictly to the existing UA Regulations.

Clarification was made about the type of Arts courses intended to fulfill that requirement (introductory level; academic component stressed rather than simply “hands-on” activity). Importance of limiting the number of courses that fall into the classifications lists was discussed. All the current PHC courses are included in the buckets.

It was noted that if the UA Regulations change the definition of “Arts” the classification lists may need to be changed. GERC had wanted the Regulations to change, but that effort stalled out at the system level.

ii. Library Science issue

Library Science falls outside the Perspectives on the Human Condition (PHC) and the UA regulations (as does Ethics). The Library faculty do not want the course to be folded into other courses.

b. Questions/issues raised by Core Review Committee

i. Communication Plans: Transfer student issue – recommend departments include a transfer student policy

Jennie attended the Core Review Committee’s last meeting. They were concerned about the transfer issues related to department Communication plans, and want to have those plans address student transfer issues. It was pointed out that the situation is essentially no different than what exists with transfers now as they relate to oral-intensive or written-intensive content.

Capstone experience requirements will hopefully help to resolve these types of issues related to Communication plan requirements (or “O” and “W” requirements). Assessment of student learning outcomes will hopefully reveal course transfer problems so that those transfer issues can be addressed.

c. Grades Appeal Policy

<https://docs.google.com/a/alaska.edu/document/d/1Lcp43UeeJ8RxzhOjrlMQpwrIt4Ydou8mkTgiDQxjKQ8/edit?usp=sharing>

Cindy mentioned this came to SADAC -- who felt this topic wasn't in their purview. Jennie noted that Sandra had passed it on to her.

The proposed changes were discussed. Adding the reference to Deferred grades was an important clarification. The changes at section III.B.4. seemed to be editorial in nature (clarification of faculty rank and union representation). The point of those editorial changes seems to be to preclude someone in an administrative role from serving as a (voting) faculty on the appeals committee, though they could still fill a non-voting role on the committee.

Mike E. talked about the time deadlines in the policy, Section III.A.2. and 3 and the need to update them. The committee discussed possible workable changes. Mike will review it further and propose some changes to the deadlines stated in the policy.

Ken commented on the difficulty students face to meet the standard of “arbitrary and capricious” grading. The committee did not want to tackle the appeal issue to this level, however, which would take them far beyond the document at this point.

The committee agreed to discuss proposed changes further at their next meeting and plans to bring it to the Administrative Committee and the Senate in spring.

d. Math and science GER alignments

UAF was out of compliance with BOR policy and UA regulations until last May when the Administrative Committee passed a motion bringing us into compliance. Regulation requires 10 credits (3 credits in Math and 7 credits in Natural Sciences, including one course with a lab). UAF had required 11 credits (3 credits in Math; and 8 credits in Natural Sciences – both with labs) for its students. Transfer students from UAA and UAS only need the required 10 credits.

5. Informational

a. CAC Goals AY 15/16 update (attached)

The committee agreed to remove the topic concerning academic disqualification from the goals document.

The meeting was adjourned close to 2:30 PM as discussions turned to how long turkeys should be baked.