

## **Curricular Affairs Committee**

### **Meeting Minutes for December 9, 2015, 1-2:30 pm (as amended to update meeting attendance)**

Present: Ken Abramowicz, Casey Byrne (via Zoom), Mike Earnest, Catherine Hanks (via Zoom), Cindy Hardy, Eileen Harney, Jayne Harvie, Ginny Kinne; Lisa Lunn, Rainer Newberry (Chaired meeting for Jennie), Caty Oehring, Patrick Plattet (via Zoom), Holly Sherouse  
Absent: Jennie Carroll, Alex Fitts, Doug Goering, Joan Hornig, Jenny Liu

#### 1. Approval/Amendment of Agenda

The agenda was revised and distributed by Rainer who was filling in as chair for Jennie.

#### 2. Old Business

##### a. Minor in Major Motion

Faculty Senate passed the motion on December 7.

##### b. Grades appeal policy – updated language from Mike

Mike recommends picking a fixed time after grades are posted as the deadline to file a grade appeal (e.g., 90 or 120 days). That allows for all the different permutations of class lengths -- full semester courses as well as short courses. It solves the “next regular semester” problem, as well as what is defined as a “class day” since it can be argued UAF has classes seven days a week.

The committee discussed the time-frame for holding the appeal hearing once the appeal has been filed. They decided to ask ASUAF for their input, and invite Amber Cagwin (from the Dean of Students Office) for her input, too. Mike agreed to follow up and invite Amber.

Mike’s next choice would be to pick a day that’s set in the academic calendar; e.g., by the last date for withdrawals in the next semester. It doesn’t solve the summer issue, however.

The committee agreed that the goal is to gather opinions and information to resolve this in time for the March Faculty Senate meeting.

##### c. Library skills and such

Holly provided data which Rainer used to create a chart (copied below) comparing the numbers of students who complete the library requirement during their freshman and sophomore years vs. their junior and senior years. It can be projected that in about seven years, more students will be completing the requirement in their junior / senior years than in their freshman / sophomore years. A couple of possible ways to view these results included making the conclusion that the library skills requirement is not working, or that advisors are not appropriately pushing underclassman to take the course or test out of it. The problem doesn’t appear to be the course, which people have observed has changed to stay current with the times.

Ken proposed there could be a compounding error reflected here because so many transfer students come in with as much as 45 or more credits. Others had the strong impression that students are taking it later and later in their academic career.

Ginny noted that freshman students have a hard time getting into the courses which fill up quickly, and then they have to keep putting it off each semester. The Advising Center had talked with a library faculty about the problem and possible ways to address it. She stressed advisors are pushing the course to freshman students. Rainer wondered what has changed over the past 18 years that makes it harder for freshman students to take it. Holly offered to refine the data pull to help get a clearer picture.

Possible solutions were suggested, such as making the course a co- or prerequisite for ENGL F211 or F213. Late-start online options would be useful, also. Offering more sections per semester would probably be the most ideal solution. Ginny will go back to the library faculty and start the conversation again. Eileen will talk to the English department about the idea of tying the library course to English courses. Implications of changes to the Core Curriculum / GERs were mentioned, particularly with regard to types of waivers given to transfer students. Another solution could be assigning two CRNs in Banner for one course in order to provide underclassmen a better chance to sign up for the course. The fundamental issue remains that there are about 700 freshman and only about 390 seats available for the library courses (based off data from this semester). Increasing the size of the sections was one obvious solution, even if just for a limited time to accommodate the overflow of upper-level students needing to take it.

### 3. New Business

#### a. CAC GER Subcommittee Report from December 2 (attached)

##### i. Cross-listing issues

SOC / ANTH F100X no longer seems to be functioning as a truly cross-listed course, but has become two distinct courses over time. This may also be the case with PS / ECON F100X; and ART / MUS / THR F200X. Jennie has started to contact departments about UN-cross-listing such courses via the minor course change process.

##### ii. Soc issues: problems of courses w/prerequisites & how we'll deal with that problem

Communication had come from the Sociology Department about courses they wish to be included in the new bucket lists (some with prerequisites that they plan to remove). Jennie has contacted them to let them know "new" courses are not being considered right now for the buckets.

Updating the course transfer guidelines for GER fulfillment was discussed (page 34 of the Catalog, Table 4 on transfer equivalencies). It's hoped that broadening the course options with the bucket lists will result in a decrease of UA students completing GERs elsewhere to be able to simply transfer in those requirements. Procedures for core waivers were also discussed. The Core Review Committee needs to be brought into the discussion.

### 4. MEETING DAY / TIME NEXT SEMESTER??? Same day/time???

The December 23 meeting was cancelled. The committee agreed to meet next on Monday, January 11, 2016, at 1:00 pm in the eLearning Conference Room.

### 5. Informational

#### a. Academic probation and disqualification motion approved by FS (Dec. 7)

- b. Foreign language option motion approved by FS (Dec. 7)
- c. CAC Goals AY 15/16 update (attached)

The meeting was adjourned close to 2:30 PM amidst a great collective sigh of relief mixed with the foreboding sense of impending deadlines.

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CAC GER Implementation Subcommittee Meeting Report  
December 2, 2015

Discussion on cross-listed courses:

1. Intended to be the same, but evolved differently (e.g. ANTH 100x and SOC 100x).
  - a. Should be uncross-listed so that students can take them as different social sciences to meet UA regulations.
2. Are the same course regardless of designator.
  - a. Should ensure that students can only take one designator that counts in ss category.
3. Cross-listed, but only taught under one department.

**ADD RAINER'S TABLE** (Emailed him for an e-copy 01/05/2016) – TO BE ADDED