

University Senate Curricula and Courses Committee Minutes

Meeting Title: "Commas Have Been Added"

9:30am Wednesday, 12 November, 2014

Senate Meeting Room

I. **Opening business**

- A. Meeting called to order at 9:30am
- B. Welcome
- C. Regrets: Samuel Martinez, Maria Ana O'Donoghue
- D. Minutes of 29 October meeting were passed via evote.
- E. We will next meet 19 November. It was determined halfway through that another meeting would be added to the calendar in order to finish up as much business as possible before the last Senate meeting of the semester. The final Senate C&C meeting will still be on 3 December.
- F. Associate Provost Sally Reis spoke to the committee about topics of current interest:
  - The Waterbury campus will receive a gift from the Reeds. The couple who is donating money wanted to give an endowed chair, but the suggestion was made instead to give funds to a faculty member at any campus towards recording lectures to be used in hybrid or online courses and perhaps guest lecture at the Waterbury campus. The hope is to involve some more distinguished faculty so that students can be exposed to these professors (e.g. Mitch Green). The couple has agreed to front-end \$80,000 to the project, which will be called the Reed Fellowship.
  - S. Reis noted that she met with GEOC Chair Mike Young and expressed that she feels it is time to relook at General Education. Specifically she is recommending a look at competency-based instruction. The GEOC also did not have a robust response to the current Provost's Competition call for proposals, so her suggestion was to re-imagine the competition. S. Reis will meet with the GEOC in the coming semester.
  - One common complaint among students is that they sometimes have trouble understanding their instructors. In terms of professional development, some preparation and training can be helpful, but it is often the faculty who are already good that usually attend these kinds of trainings.
  - There are serious worries about the budget, especially the CLAS budget. S. Reis noted that there is really a CLAS-A, which supplies the majority of Gen Ed course, and a CLAS-B that supplies upper level in-major courses. All of these courses will lose a lot of seats if budget cuts are enacted as suggested. S. Reis expressed that we can't bring outstanding students to UConn and then not have seats for them. She questioned why the burden for General Education is on CLAS and noted that other schools and colleges need to pick up some of this burden. She noted that, as one option, enrollment in the law school is on the decline, and so she suggested that UConn have some of these outstanding scholars conduct Gen Ed courses in the area of law.
  - S. Reis noted that there has been a slight increase in requests to approve programs as entrepreneurial programs. These programs are usually at the graduate level, primarily part-time during the evenings and summers, and can't be taught as part of full-time faculty salary. One

example is the “Two Summers Program.” These programs are beneficial because departments keep the majority of the income from them, and they attract students who wouldn’t normally come to UConn because they can’t afford to take a year off. These are often used by the School of Business, but the practice is starting to branch out to other schools and colleges.

- There have been conversations with the Institute for Teaching and Learning (ITL), particularly with Peter Diplock, about how UConn can help teachers become more proficient in developing online course content. Greg Gray, President of the Board of Regents, was criticized recently for a memo he wrote stating that the professor is no longer the purveyor of knowledge in education, but S. Reis says she does not believe that is true. Lectures, however, are not always the best way to get to students. New initiatives will aim to give instructors better ways to convey their knowledge.
- UConn is piloting a testing center in Arjona 109 that has proctored nearly 7000 exams so far this semester. The center contains 65 computers. The availability of technology is sufficient so far; the center is having more trouble physically getting staff to run it. There is the potential to get capacity up to 100 computers. The center is used for administering tests for large lectures. Tests can be given on HuskyCT, but they can’t be proctored, so the testing center provides this service.
- A group of students has raised legitimate concerns about the price of textbooks. Students on grants and those who are more economically limited are not always able to buy their books, so the university is looking into ways to help students. S. Reis is bringing in someone from University of Minnesota who is an expert on open source text books, and she will put together a task force to let professors know what options are available. The plan is to build some capacity and run some pilots for open source textbooks.
- One Senate C&C member asked what the return rate on the Student Evaluation Teaching (SET) was. 29-30% seems to be average, but it can be up to 43%. The return rate for paper evaluations was deceptively high since many students returned them but did not actually fill them out. S. Reis went on record to say that she would change the format now if she could. She indicated that the five-point scale is too small (which is used now), the ten-point is too high, and seven-point scale would be ideal. It was asked if this issue could be brought up at the Senate, but the problem is pushback from AAUP. Faculty Standards would be the best forum for discussion of the issue. It is S. Reis’s suggestion the UConn should just buy an evaluation being used by other major universities.
- Another member asked about the NEASC accreditation. S. Reis indicated that there were great people working on it, and anyone is invited to look at information being compiled by Hedley Freake and Andrew Moiseff. UConn is using a matrix sampling approach. S. Reis indicated that UConn will want to bring in someone from an aspirant public university for the review because we want to learn something from the experience. Most universities in the area can only hope to have our resources, so they cannot contribute much towards directing positive change.

## II. Report of the Senate C&C Chair

- A. University Senate (P. Bedore) – The consent agenda passed.
- B. Senate Exec (P. Bedore) – Nothing to report.
- C. GEOC (E. Schultz and K. Piantek) – GEOC discussed a suggestion by Sally Reis to consider revising General Education at UConn in favor of a competency-based system. The committee was generally reluctant to consider the idea without solid grounds to suggest

that the current system (which was implemented only a relatively short time ago) is not working as it should. The committee felt that complications might include issues with department budgets, programs that have restrictions on plans of study, and the re-emergence of the same pitfalls that afflict the current system.

- D. UICC (K. Piantek) – The committee will next meet on 4 December.
- E. Curriculum Advisory (“workflow”) group (M. Darre and E. Schultz) – The group has not moved forward yet. E. Schultz will work on inputting contacts.

### III. Other Committee Reports

- A. Growth and Development Committee (D. Mercier) – The committee meets on Friday.
- B. Diversity (S. Nunnally) – The committee met on 30 October, but S. Nunnally had to leave early to meet with the Diversity Task Force. In the committee meeting there was discussion about updates on the previous report that had been conducted on diversity. What happened with the document and will it be revisited? This was the first meeting of the Diversity Task Force, so it was very introductory. There was some discussion of what was happening with fraternities and sororities on campus, including a conflict between one predominantly black one and one white one.
- C. Standing Honors Board (D. Hanink) – The committee meets on Friday.
- D. Scholastic Standards (E. Schultz) – The committee heard from a faculty member who has been pressured over the years to change the format of his classes to accommodate student athletes, some of whose absences seem excessive. There was discussion of the kinds of documentation he would need to make his concerns known. There was also discussion of changes to by-laws with regards to end-of-semester examinations. Finally, there was some discussion of technicalities with administrative titles and other issues.

### IV. Old Business

- A. New 1000- or 2000-level courses:
  - 1. Motion to remove from the table (M. Buck, J. Broccolo) CE 2251 Probability and Statistics in Civil Engineering

*Note: This course was tabled pending clarification of the recommended preparation. Clarification was received.*

#### *Proposed Catalog Copy*

CE 2251 Probability and Statistics in Civil and Environmental Engineering (251) (Also offered as ENVE 2251.) Three credits. Recommended preparation: MATH 1131Q or 1151Q. Not open for credit to students who have passed CE 2210 or ENVE 2330. Fundamentals of probability theory and statistics. Hypothesis testing, linear and multiple regression.

*Discussion*

- The course was tabled because a pre-req, MATH 1121Q, no longer exists; the proposer indicated that Senate C&C should just delete it.
- A grading conversion scale is needed in the syllabus.

**Motion to add CE 2251 was passed unanimously.**

B. Revised 1000- or 2000-level courses:

1. Motion to remove from the table (M. Darre, J. Van Heest) MATH 2794W Mathematics Writing Seminar (pre-req and name change)

*Note: GEOC has reviewed and approved this course for revision. This course was tabled pending clarification of the Math Club participation issue. Issue has been answered.*

*Current Catalog Copy*

MATH 2794W Undergraduate Seminar II

(201W) Two credits. Prerequisite: MATH 2784; ENGL 1010 or 1011 or 2011.

The student will attend talks during the semester and choose a mathematical topic from one of them to investigate in detail. The student will write a well-revised, comprehensive paper on this topic, including a literature review, description of technical details, and a summary and discussion, building upon the writing experience in MATH 2784.

*Revised Catalog Copy*

MATH 2794W Mathematics Writing Seminar

(201W) Two credits. Prerequisite: ENGL 1010 or 1011 or 2011, and one of the following: (1) MATH 2144 or (2) one of MATH 2110, 2130, 2143 and one of MATH 2210, 2410, 2420.

Contemporary topics in mathematics.

*Discussion*

- It was clarified that the Math Club does meet at exactly the same time as the class.
- A grading conversion scale is needed in the syllabus.
- Some members felt that it was inappropriate to force a student to be part of a co-curricular club in order to take the class. It was also questioned if this club is a Tier 1 organization.

**Motion to revise MATH 2794W was passed unanimously.**

2. Motion to revise (M. Darre, M. Buck) ENVE 2251 Probability and Statistics in Civil Engineering (title and description, add cross-listing)

*Note: This course was previously not moved pending clarification of the recommended preparation for its cross-listing. Clarification has been received.*

*Current Catalog Copy*

ENVE 2251. Probability and Statistics in Civil Engineering

(251) Three credits. Recommended preparation: MATH 1121Q or 1131Q. This course and ENVE 2330 or CE 2210 may not both be taken for credit.

Application of statistical principles to the analysis of civil engineering problems. Topics include probability, random variable distributions, hypothesis testing, and linear regression analysis.

*Revised Catalog Copy*

ENVE 2251 Probability and Statistics in Civil and Environmental Engineering

(251) (Also offered as CE 2251.) Three credits. Recommended preparation: MATH 1131Q or 1151Q. Not open for credit to students who have passed CE 2210 or ENVE 2330. Fundamentals of probability theory and statistics. Hypothesis testing, linear and multiple regression.

*Discussion*

- No discussion.

**Motion to revise ENVE 2251 was passed unanimously.**

V. **New Business**

A. New 1000- or 2000-level courses:

1. Motion to add (E. Schultz, J. Van Heest) ENGL 2603 Literary Approaches to the Bible

*Proposed Catalog Copy*

ENGL 2603 Literary Approaches to the Bible

Three credits. Prerequisite: ENGL 1010 or ENGL 1011 or ENGL 2011.

Critical approaches to, and literary and cultural influences of, the Bible in English translation.

*Discussion*

- P. Bedore noted that this course is the work of much consultation among different departments.
- ENGL 3800 was deleted from the pre-reqs and some wordsmithing was done.
- It was noted that the syllabus needs more language on policies and can't indicate grading on attendance.

**Motion to add ENGL 2603 was passed unanimously.**

2. Motion to add (E. Schultz, M. Cantino) EEB 1893 Foreign Study and EEB 2893 Foreign Study

*Proposed Catalog Copy*

EEB 1893 Foreign Study

Either semester. Credits and hours by arrangement, up to a maximum of 6 credits.

Prerequisite: Consent of Department Head, program coordinator or advisor may be required prior to the student's departure. May be repeated for credit.

Special topics taken in a foreign study program.

EEB 2893 Foreign Study

Either semester. Credits and hours by arrangement, up to a maximum of 6 credits.  
Prerequisite: Consent of Department Head, program coordinator or advisor may be required prior to the student's departure. May be repeated for credit.  
Special topics taken in a foreign study program.

*Discussion*

- There was a question about the wording that approval “may be required prior to the student’s departure.” This appears to be relatively standard language across Foreign Study designations, though.
- There was some question as to whether approval had been granted by CLAS, but the committee determined that it was.

**Motion to add EEB 1893 and EEB 2893 was passed unanimously.**

B. Delete 1000- or 2000-level courses:

1. Motion to delete (M. Cantino, M. Darre) POLS 1007 Introduction to Human Rights

*Note: GEOC has reviewed and approved this course deletion. Only the POLS section of the course is being deleted.*

*Discussion*

- No discussion.

**Motion to delete POLS 1007 was passed unanimously.**

C. The GEOC recommends addition of the following new 3000- and 4000-level courses in the W competency:

1. Motion to add (E. Schultz, M. Buck) POLS 3429/W Political Violence

*Proposed Catalog Copy*

POLS 3429 Political Violence

Three credits. Open to Juniors and Above. Recommended preparation: POLS 1402  
Nature and origins of violence, including torture, genocide, terrorism, and civil war, on the part of individuals, non-state groups, and states.

POLS 3429W Political Violence

Three credits. Open to Juniors and Above. Prerequisite: ENGL 1010 or 1011 or 2011.  
Recommended preparation: POLS 1402

*Discussion*

- One member questioned the use of commas versus semi-colons, and commas were preferred.
- It was noted that the syllabus appears to be very thorough.

**Motion to add POLS 3429W was passed unanimously.**

2. Motion to add (K. Labadorf, J. Broccolo) SOCI/HRTS 3837W Sociology of Global Human Rights

*Discussion*

- E. Schultz noted that box 39 on the CAR form didn't seem to respond to the questions being asked; it looks as though parts of the syllabus were copied into the box. He questioned if GEOC had really fully looked at this course. K. Piantek noted that GEOC relies on its subcommittees' reports and does not usually look at the courses individually in the full meeting.
- E. Schultz suggested that GEOC needs to reconsider how they oversee their course approvals. P. Bedore will convey this concern to Mike Young.
- Motion to table (M. Darre, E. Schultz) passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 11:02am

Attendees: Pamela Bedore (Chair), Marie Cantino, Kathy Labadorf, Michael Darre, Marianne Buck, Dean Hanink, Shayla Nunnally, Dan Mercier, Eric Schultz, Jaci Van Heest, and Jake Broccolo (student rep)

Respectfully Submitted: Karen Piantek