

University Senate Curricula and Courses Committee Minutes
Meeting Subtitles: “We’re All Mad Here” or “Darth Schultz Crushes the Rebellion.”
10:30am Tuesday, 8 September, 2015
Senate Conference Room

I. **Opening business**

- A. Meeting called to order at 10:32am
- B. Welcome and Introductions
- C. Regrets: Mike Darre and Mike Whitney
- D. Minutes of 20 April meeting were eApproved
- E. We will next meet 22 September 2015

II. **Report of the Chair/Representative**

- A. University Senate (E. Schultz) – E. Schultz reported on business coming from Scholastic Standards on the university bylaws. Among other changes, now that there is a testing center, student final exams are not necessarily restricted to 2 hours.
- B. Senate Executive (P. Bedore) – P. Bedore informed the committee of a charge to review and assess General Education at UConn. The report will be part of the NEASC accreditation process. The university will not bring in someone from outside given the timeframe, so P. Bedore and E. Schultz are working with Andrea Hubbard of the nominating committee to create an assessment task force. P. Bedore asked the Senate C&C if they had initial questions, feedback, or suggestions. S. Wilson asked about how the committee will conceptualize and measure the effects of General Education. E. Schultz noted that Neag has been contacted, and he is awaiting the final determination of how they will be involved. S. Wilson suggested using students in an assessment class, if one is being taught, to help them get experience. K. Labadorf noted that the library has a staff member who does data visualization. P. Bedore will send around a copy of the charge for the Senate C&C’s reference.
- C. GEOC (K. Piantek) – The GEOC will not conduct its own internal assessment in light of the charge from the Senate. The Provost’s Competition will also not run this year, and its continuation will be determined after the General Education assessment. This is Mike Young’s last year as GEOC Chair, so GEOC will be seeking his replacement shortly.
- D. Gen Ed Assessment Task Force (P. Bedore) – See above.

E. UICC (K. Piantek) – K. Piantek is no longer the administrator for the UICC. Cheryl Galli in the Senate Office will take over these duties. Eric Donkor has replaced Hedley Freake as the UICC Chair.

F. Curriculum Advisory (“Workflow”) group (M. Darre) – E. Schultz explained the origins of this workgroup and, in looking back, found that this process was first proposed/started in 2011. He gave updates on the progress of the committee and the form development over the last two years. The two biggest advances in the form are its adaptive design and its notification process. The group moved to the first testing phase over the summer. Due to some reorganization in UITS, coding work on the form will move from Mike Oatley to Jason Card.

III. **Other committee reports**

A. Growth and Development Committee (Vacant) – S. Wilson volunteered to serve.

B. Diversity (S. Nunnally) – S. Nunnally reported on the committee’s May 6 meeting, which included a discussion of the Diversity Task Force as well as the logistics of an Office of Diversity. S. Nunnally also indicated that she would step down as the representative on this committee due mainly to her service on the Diversity Task Force. It was suggested that M.A. O’Donoghue may want to be on this committee, so P. Bedore will follow up with her. If not, K. Labadorf volunteered to be the Senate C&C rep.

C. Standing Honors Board (D. Hanink) – D. Hanink would like to rotate off of this committee. K. Piantek indicated that she takes the minutes for the Honors Board and can report on committee business when needed.

D. Scholastic Standards (E. Schultz) – E. Schultz will continue to serve as this representative.

IV. **Old Business**

A. Revised 1000- and 2000-level courses:

1. EKIN (KINS) 1160 Courses in Lifetime Sports Program (title, description & designation)

NOTE: The department has indicated their intention to submit a new course request, so this item has been removed from the docket.

2. Motion to revise (K. Labadorf, M. Buck) ART 2120 Communication Design (title and description change)

Note: This course was put on hold because the committee felt that too much about the course was changing and that it warranted a new course number. Representatives from the School of Fine Arts will attend this meeting to discuss the course.

Current Catalog Copy

ART 2120. Communication Design 1

Three credits. Two 3-hour studio periods.

Prerequisite: ART 2110, portfolio review and consent of instructor.

Fundamentals of communication design. A fee of \$35 is charged for this course.

Revised Catalog Copy

ART 2120. Graphic Design 1: Typography

Three credits. Two 3 hour studio periods. Prerequisite: ART 2110, portfolio review and consent of instructor.

Introduction to typographic terms, technology, and the foundations and fundamentals of typography and visual structure as a medium for expressive, conceptual, and intellectual communication. A fee of \$35 is charged for this course.

Discussion

- Thomas Meacham, Edwin Yegir, Cora Lynn Deibler from the School of Fine Arts attended the meeting to discuss the course.
- E. Schultz gave a review of the committee discussion from the previous meeting. The Senate C&C's main concern is that the course seems much narrower with the revisions than original course.
- C. L. Deibler read a note from one of the professors who teaches the courses, which noted that the course has always been about typography, but because of the description, students did not know/realize that UConn had a typography course. A syllabus from 2011 that is almost identical to the 2014 one that was submitted with the course proposal was provided. C. L. Deibler noted that the course objectives have not changed. The new course description is intended at least partially to alleviate the confusion of students as to what the course (and by extension the program) actually is about. E. Yegir noted that there has been some fluidity and changes in the nomenclature surrounding graphic design, and the proposed title and description changes to this course are a response to these broader changes.
- There was some discussion of what the outcomes or consequences of changing the course number would be. One member noted that changing the number seems minor after changing the title and description.
- In response, another member questioned why a new number is needed if the intention is only to clarify what the course already does. She noted that this is an age of education where this kind of specificity is increasingly needed and desired.
- M. Buck informed the committee that three other upper-level courses in this sequence have already changed their titles and descriptions along these lines.
- C. L. Deibler concluded by assuring the Senate C&C that the proposal is really just following the trend of making course descriptions more specific. She noted that the School of Fine Arts would really like to see the number remain the same, especially since the school would never teach the "old" course if they are changed because it is the same course.

- After the School of Fine Arts representatives left, the committee engaged in a short discussion; a number of members felt reassured that the course is not changing substantially, and the proposal was put to a vote.

Motion to revise ART 2120 approved with one nay vote.

V. New Business

A. New 1000- and 2000-level courses:

1. Motion to add (D. Hanink, S. Nunnally) GEOG 2400 Introduction to Sustainable Cities

Note: GEOC has not yet reviewed the CA2 and CA4-INT requests.

Proposed Catalog Copy

GEOG 2400. Introduction to Sustainable Cities

Three credits.

Pathways to make cities more sustainable from social, economic, and environmental perspectives. Topics include sustainable transportation, renewable energy, recycling of waste, and green infrastructure in contemporary metropolitan areas in developed and developing nations.

Discussion

- The number of credits was added to description.
- The attached syllabus was deemed “admirable.”

Motion to add GEOG 2400 approved unanimously.

2. Motion to add (S. Wilson, D. Hanink) SOCI 2275 Social Well-Being

Note: GEOC has not yet reviewed a proposed W version of this course.

Proposed Catalog Copy

SOCI 2275. Social Well-Being

Three credits. Open to sophomores and higher.

Socially-embedded facets of well-being. Definitions and levels of well-being; relationship of well-being to social situations, social interactions, and social institutions.

Discussion

- The committee engaged in grammatical wordsmithing of the description.
- It was noted that the W subcommittee should be informed about changes to the course description.

Motion to add SOCI 2275 approved unanimously.

B. 1000- or 2000-level Special Topics:

1. ANSC 2695 Special Topics: Patagonian Biodiversity and Horse Culture

Special Topic Description

This experimental course will be taught in the fall semester with a field component. During winter break, students will travel to the Southern Patagonia of Chile. In the fall semester the students will be introduced to the ecology and biodiversity of Patagonia and how it has been affected by the livestock industry with special emphasis on the horse. The field component will take students to several ranches and a national park in the Chilean Patagonia. Local instructors and students will conduct rapid assessment of the biodiversity and behavioral observations on the ranch as well as wild horses in the area. Socio-cultural aspects will be taught by local instructors and “gauchos” (the local cowboys).

The Chair reported that the proposal to add GEOG 2400 as a Special Topics course was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:58am.

Attendees: Pamela Bedore (Chair), Eric Schultz, Dean Hanink, Kathy Labadorf, Shayla Nunnally, Suzanne Wilson, Marianne Buck

Respectfully Submitted: Karen Piantek