

University Senate Curricula and Courses Committee Minutes
September 19, 2023 – 2:00pm-3:30pm
Meeting Subtitles: “The Senate C&C Invents TOI-7: The TOI for Misfit Courses”
or “A Little [Department Shaming](#) Never Hurt Anyone”
or “Pulling Steve Back from the Authoritarian Brink of Curricular Control”

I. Preliminaries

A. Welcome

B. Minutes for September 5, 2023

- The minutes were amended to note L. Hanzlik’s participation.

S. Wilson motioned to approve the Minutes with the amendment. M. Hatfield seconded. The Minutes were approved as amended.

C. We will next convene in the electronic ether on October 3.

II. Chair Reports (G. Nanclares)

A. University Senate – Our consent agenda report passed.

B. Senate Executive – G. Nanclares asked about the pop-up course report. S. Wilson can post the document tomorrow morning. CETL contributed quite a bit of data. The big question is how will we move forward procedurally. Peter Diplock played a big role in shepherding courses, but he is no longer at the university. S. Wilson explained that the report was requested by SEC.

- P. Before gave some additional context. ‘Pop-up’ courses started during COVID. The first one was in fact COVID-related. Others approached the Senate and wanted to know how to propose similar courses.
- Pop-up courses are usually one-credit free courses that are robustly interdisciplinary, S/U graded, use auto-graded assignments, have a faculty lead who works with a team, and use the variable topics UNIV designation.

III. Member Reports

A. UICC (M. Hatfield) – The committee has not met.

B. Honors Board of Associate Directors (TBD) – No report. A new representative is needed to replace Eric Schultz.

C. Scholastic Standards (S. Rusch) – S. Rusch said she hasn’t received any meeting notices yet, but P. Bedore thought the committee has met.

D. CCC+ (P. Bedore) – There is lots going on. November 1st is a big a due date. CCC+ hosted workshops on the spreadsheets and has more workshop topics coming up. We’ve heard from many departments, but we’re a little worried about departments we haven’t heard from yet. Proposals for course grants are also due November 1st. We have lots of funding for 36 brand new courses, plus \$400,000 for course revision available to departments. CCC+ created a syllabus checklist, and we want to know how we should proceed in terms of feedback. The

traditional wisdom is that CCC+ should pay attention to the CC-related material in the syllabus, and Senate C&C will pay attention to the more technical items.

- One member noted that, yes, there is a difference between what the two committees review, but sometimes there is overlap. The line can be blurry, and both CCC+ and Senate C&C are responsible for keeping dialog open, providing feedback, and easing fears.
- One member noted in the chat, “[Member] makes a good point about the invention of institutional precedent and tradition.”
- There was a question about academic freedom. What if a faculty member doesn’t want to transition a course? Answer: They don’t have to. Not all courses have to transition.

IV. New Business

A. Revise 1000- and 2000-level Courses:

1. Motion to revise (M. Hatfield, M. McKenzie) SOCI 2310 Introduction to Criminal Justice [CA2, CA4] (#19805) [Revise description]

NOTE: CCC+ has approved this course for revision and will address its CC status when SOCI submits its course transition spreadsheet.

Current Catalog Copy

SOCI 2310. Introduction to Criminal Justice

3.00 credits

Prerequisites: None.

Grading Basis: Graded

The criminal justice system from a sociological perspective, including crime, police and law enforcement, courts and adjudication, corrections and juvenile justice. CA 2. CA 4.

Revised Catalog Copy

SOCI 2310. Introduction to Criminal Justice

3.00 credits

Prerequisites: None.

Grading Basis: Graded

The criminal justice system from a sociological perspective, including crime, police and law enforcement, courts and adjudication, and corrections. CA 2. CA 4.

Discussion

- One member noted that “juvenile justice” is still referenced in the syllabus, particularly in the course description. We need to remind the department to update their syllabus.

Motion to revise SOCI 2310 (#19805) was approved unanimously.

B. The Common Curriculum Committee+ recommends revision of the following 3000- or 4000-level courses:

1. Motion to revise (M. Hatfield, M. McKenzie) PHIL 3247/W Philosophy of Psychology [W] (#17565) [Revise prereqs]

Current Catalog Copy

PHIL 3247. Philosophy of Psychology

3.00 credits

Prerequisites: PSYC 2500 or 3500 or 3550W or 3551W or 3552; one three-credit philosophy course or consent of instructor.

Grading Basis: Graded

Conceptual issues in theoretical psychology. Topics may include computational models of mind, the language of thought, connectionism, neuropsychological deficits, and relations between psychological models and the brain.

PHIL 3247W. Philosophy of Psychology

3.00 credits

Prerequisites: PSYC 2500 or 3500 or 3550W or 3551W or 3552; ENGL 1007 or 1010 or 1011 or 2011; one three-credit philosophy course or instructor consent.

Grading Basis: Graded

Conceptual issues in theoretical psychology. Topics may include computational models of mind, the language of thought, connectionism, neuropsychological deficits, and relations between psychological models and the brain.

Revised Catalog Copy

PHIL 3247. Philosophy of Psychology

3.00 credits

Prerequisites: One three-credit course in Philosophy at the 2000-level or above; or one three-credit 1000-level course in Philosophy and at least one of COGS 2201, PSYC 2400, 2500, 2501, 3500, 3501, or 3502; or instructor consent.

Grading Basis: Graded

Conceptual issues in theoretical psychology. Topics may include computational models of mind, the language of thought, connectionism, neuropsychological deficits, and relations between psychological models and the brain.

PHIL 3247W. Philosophy of Psychology

3.00 credits

Prerequisites: One three-credit course in Philosophy at the 2000-level or above; or one three-credit 1000-level course in Philosophy and at least one of COGS 2201, PSYC 2400, 2500, 2501, 3500, 3501, or 3502; or instructor consent; ENGL 1007 or 1010 or 1011 or 2011.

Grading Basis: Graded

Conceptual issues in theoretical psychology. Topics may include computational models of mind, the language of thought, connectionism, neuropsychological deficits, and relations between psychological models and the brain.

Discussion

- One member asked about the 3000-level prereqs. They're fine. There is no explicit rule against them.

Motion to revise PHIL 3247/W (#17565) was approved unanimously.

C. TRUCKs

1. Motion to revise (M) HIST TRUCK (with AAAS & AMST) [CA1s & CA4s, Course Renumbering]

AAAS/HIST 2688 (2868)

AAAS/HIST 2688W (2868W)

AAAS/HIST 2101 (2225)

AMST/HIST 2810 (2550)

HIST 2845 (2230)

HIST 2845W (2230W)

Discussion

- No discussion.

Motion to revise HIST TRUCK (N/A) was approved unanimously.

D. Discussion Items

1. The Office of the Registrar has gotten feedback from students who have expressed frustration about courses that are technically active and listed in the catalog but which have not been offered for several years. ITS is working on updating the data that feeds the catalog website to somehow flag the courses that have not been offered for several terms and M. Hatfield wanted to discuss this with the committee to get some more perspectives on the issue. These are the main questions:
 - a. Senate rules allow departments to archive courses that have not been offered in more than five years, but they are under no pressure to do so. Should there be an expectation that a course be archived after a certain point?
 - b. If the committee feels the answer to question #1 is yes, what is the appropriate body to lead that initiative?
 - c. ITS is looking for guidance on the wording for the note they'd add to courses in the catalog. The initial thought is something along the lines of "Course not offered in past two academic years" depending on the cutoff we choose.
 - M. Hatfield introduced the issue. He ran some quick data, and there are about 1000 courses that have not been offered within the last five years.
 - One member asked in the chat, "How often are departments reminded of archiving?" The Registrar used to provide reminders regularly, but they saw diminishing returns on this strategy.
 - Can it be an automatic thing? One suggestion was to send an email to departments with a list of their courses that will be archived, and then program the system to archive them automatically.
 - Members generally expressed support for a firmer hand in pushing departments to archive courses.
 - Another solution is to color code how often a course is offered, both for student information and to "shame" departments into taking action.
 - One member felt a four-year cycle, rather than a five-year one, would be appropriate for undergraduate courses. What about graduate courses? We could encourage an equivalent policy, but masters programs tend to be shorter.

- There was general agreement that Senate C&C would support some kind of action on this. M. Hatfield will draft a proposal for presentation to SEC.

2. Minor Catalog Copy Revisions – Do we really need a CAR for now?

- Option 1: Hold the line and require a CAR
- Option 2: Allow a temporary suspension of CARs for minor changes (about 2 months?). With some adjustments, the TRUCK may be a possible vehicle for minor revisions.
 - M. Hatfield expressed some concerns about being able to track changes adequately.
 - One member noted that the suggested adjustment to the TRUCK was something we considered before and walked back. One exception might be for courses that just want to add language about a creative project to the course description.
 - It was noted that CCC+ members were fairly ambivalent about the options. No one answered the unofficial poll put forward at the last meeting.
 - The general feeling was that we should keep the CAR and tell people to reach out if they need help.

V. Continuing Business

- A. Report on Pop-up Courses
 1. Descriptive information
 2. Potential survey questions for instructors
 3. Potential survey questions for students

M. Hatfield motioned to adjourn. M. McKenzie seconded. Everyone signaled their approval by leaving.

In Attendance (in bold): **Gustavo Nanclares** (Chair), **Dorothea Anagnostopoulos**, **Pam Bedore** (Ex-officio), John Chandy, Sarah Croucher, **Louis Hanzlik**, **Marc Hatfield**, **Matt McKenzie**, **Dan Mercier**, David Ouimette, Tina Reardon, **Sharyn Rusch**, **Steve Stifano**, **Suzanne Wilson**, Terra Zuidema (Registrar alternate)

Respectfully submitted by Karen McDermott