

Academic Policy and Curriculum Committee (APCC) Meeting

March 13, 2014, 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm; Cherry Parkes 331

Attendees: *Doug Wills (Chair); Janice Laakso; Linda Ishem; Alexis Wilson; Patrick Pow, ex-officio; Luther Adams; Kathy Beaudoin; Lauren Montgomery; Jenny Sheng; Andrea Coker-Anderson, ex-officio (Registrar)*

Absent: *Lynda West, ex-officio (Advising); Jennifer Sundheim, ex-officio (Library)*

Visitors: *Bonne Becker (IAS), George Mobus (IT), Tracy Thompson (Business)*

1. Consent Agenda 12:34

The minutes for 02/13/2014 meeting were accepted by Doug hearing no objections.

2. Program Change: American Studies – Bonnie Becker

Presentation

Bonnie presented that the new memo and proposal clarifies language from the last proposal in the descriptions and the group added a mission statement. The two foundational courses focus a lot on diversity issues and that the issues are weaved throughout the curriculum instead of in isolated and individual courses.

Questions

Linda noted that some of the wording revisions and editions, in the descriptions, mentioned social identities but she didn't see a wide breadth of the issues that could be included. She mentioned it was minimalistic and ambiguous. Bonnie said that Ingrid and the group spent a lot of time in discussion of the changes that they needed to make. This is a memo they voted on. This curriculum addresses a range of issues within the American experience. The social issues are a part of every course; they would be addressed in a rigorous way. They understood that the language was not explicit enough in the original proposal and so made the issues clearer in this memo. Janice said that this is exactly what Ingrid told APCC last time; it is not anything new.

Luther said that the language added make things more transparent, but, in the last visit, APCC asked the group to not just mention social identities in the courses, but to explore diverse identity subjects more in the core classes, not electives. This needs to not be contingent on how an instructor teaches the class, but rather that students engage with these issues in the required classes. He reiterated that there was no need for a quota, but rather there needed to be a wider disbursement of the themes and subjects within the courses. Some suggestions he made were: indigenous populations, Latinos, African-Americans, and queer studies. He said that there are classes within IAS that should be included in the core directly. Bonnie responded that there are courses that are more broad methods courses that include cultures and perspectives. Luther reiterated that the committee would like to see these issues addressed in the core, not just electives. American history is different than African-American history. Bonnie wanted to comment on the Feminist Research Methods course and its broad methods. Accepting that one, there leaves Cultures and Perspectives (include a whole range of different aspects of the American experience), the Capstone, and mass communication. She sees these electives as offering a broad array of exposure to issues. Luther continued to point out the differences between the electives and the core and that APCC still wants these issues to be explored through the core. Janice wanted to make sure that these issues are explicitly stated because the faculty could change and then it's not sure that those things would be taught.

Bonnie concluded that the path that this group has taken is something that they have thoroughly thought out and think it is best for their students. She believes this curriculum deserves to be evaluated from a higher order perspective because the American Studies group has designed what is best for their students.

Discussion

Doug asked Luther about his concern about issues not included in the core and if it were enough to send it back. Luther said from his perspective, he would vote no. He agreed with Linda that the ability to go through the major without encountering these key issues still remains. He doesn't believe that it would be excessive to ask for more classes of that nature as a part of the core curriculum. Kathy asked if it would be a redesign of the core class. This means that it could not be bypassed; she doesn't feel like that is asking a lot.

Janice said that it appears they have dug their feet in and haven't wanted to change. Lauren said that American Studies hasn't said why not either.

Alexis asked if it was a philosophical and pedagogical issue that American Studies thinks they know what is best for their program, but APCC sees something that needs to be added; they are surprised that APCC could dictate to them what else to include. Kathy argued that American Studies is saying that what APCC wants is already present. APCC is saying making it explicit so that it is always there. Linda agreed saying: make it explicit and make it required. APCC is asking to make sure that the issues are required. It doesn't need a new course; it would be that the wording is included into the core. Luther asked that they add some other courses, to get a broader study of what American Studies is, that explore, for example women's history or Asian-American literature. APCC is not saying that there is a major flaw, but that create a path in which a student explores these issues.

Janice reiterated that these are the same issues that arose the in the first proposal and discussion. Janice wondered why this group is not seeking advice and help from people at APCC, especially Luther who is in both APCC and IAS.

Vote

Doug asked for a motion to approve but no motion was forthcoming.

3. Program Change: CES – George Mobus

Presentation

The history is that the computer engineering program started on a shoestring budget. The faculty decided that it was possible to piggyback on certain courses from the CSS program. If those were amplified and made more rigorous, then they could serve the CES's purpose. Most of them were taught by George Mobus. The growth subsequently required that there were many more sections than anticipated. The people with the CS background ended up teaching some of those courses. Most modern CS students don't think about computer science or the workings of the machine, but rather software development and engineering. So when those standard courses are taught, it is not best for the computer engineers. Over the last couple of years, this group decided it's time to get ready for reaccreditation and those they may not be doing the best for their students. They have been redoing the curriculum, striking out redundancies and carving out time for more electives.

Questions

Doug stated that the proposal was very clear and concise.

Linda asked if the accreditation had gone away. George said responded that no, it was just to get reaccredited for 2016.

Vote

Linda motioned for approval. Lauren seconded. All (seven) approved, no one opposed, and no abstentions.

4. Program Change: MCL – Tracy Thompson

Presentation

Tracy said that after first year of operations, there were too many difficulties and the group decided to make changes. The 8-week module was painful for everyone involved. The time schedule was a problem, especially for veterans. In order to fit the content of the program into the quarter system, they have made each class equal more credits: 10 credits per quarter. They learnt a lot from the students that they have and what they need to emphasize and deemphasize, in seeing what the students come in with. The learning objectives have not changed, but the planning of how many courses and credits there are per quarter.

It is an interdisciplinary group and there is a lot of growth with faculty working together. Two people are from the business school and two people from IT. There is a great market for this mixture of technology and business. The prefix(es) need(s) to reflect the major: MCL.

Questions

Janice asked how faculty feel now that they are involved in something that they didn't plan on. Tracy answered she is excited though there is room for improvement.

Janice asked how they made it happen that the students could graduate this year. Tracy said that it was by the skin of their teeth and that the first few classes have been trial by fire.

Tracy said that there are 27 students in this cohort-based program. They will also be more selective in their program in the next academic year because this year has been too much of a mixture.

Lauren asked if changes could be made in the timeframe. Tracy said that it was all done and that the courses are represented in the paperwork. Andrea interjected that changes must come because the way things are structured it was very, very difficult. Another problem was that this program made students ineligible for financial aid. Janice hoped that someone has learnt from this. Lauren said that is also important for the APCC to turn non-quarter system modeled curriculum down.

Linda asked about the original staffing model. Tracy stated that faculty advocated into a fee-based program as an add-on to get extra pay. Some people have pushed back not wanting to take on extra load, so these classes are in load for Tracy. Doug asked since there were four new courses, what courses are not being taught? Tracy said she personally dropped an undergraduate class that was always under-filled, Zoe's class was an elective, and the other is provided by a new faculty member, which means he didn't have to drop any other courses, and the other class is module-based. Doug wanted to make sure that it didn't impact the undergraduates. Tracy is confident that the impact is not critical. Doug reminded Tracy that is something that APCC has to consider so that people wouldn't be able to graduate and progress without classes in sequence.

Doug asked who will teach TMCL520 Business Essentials. Tracy said Luke will coordinate the class; it is module-based and others will come in to teach. Tracy confirmed that they would be taught offload. Doug also asked if it was truly a graduate-level course because it seems remedial. Tracy mentioned that most of their students are coming from the military and that there needed to be 10 credits per quarter for veterans to reap their benefits.

Discussion

Doug said that is was a dramatic improvement and there are strong lessons to be learnt. Doug doesn't like that TMCL 520 was four classes that have been taken away from undergraduates. Lauren said that it is hard to argue that would be sustainable. Doug said that no one is looking into how the class load will affect budgets and faculty. Janice agreed that if fours classes are brought into one that leaves a lack of courses for other students.

The committee noted that it is a huge improvement.

Janice would love to have a discussion on what is undergraduate or graduate workload. She didn't know the appropriate place, but would like to request the discussion.

Doug noted that all these changes come are coming in less than 24 hours before the vote, meaning that it has not been enough time to process.

Vote

Janice moved to accept the program changes. Lauren seconded. All (seven) approved, no one opposed, and no abstentions.

5. Course Proposal

a. New Courses

Designation	Name
TEDLD 588	Challenges in Practice II
THIST 213	American Military History II
TPSYCH 351	Psychology of Perception
THLTH 355	HIV/AIDS: Global & National Issues
TGIS 501	GIS Customization and Automation
TGIS 502	Introduction to Geospatial Technology
TURB 490	Special Topics in Urban Studies
TCES 420	Principles of Operating Systems
TCES 480	Senior Project I
TCES 460	Embedded Systems Design
TMCL 520	Business Essentials
TMCL 540	Leadership and Team Dynamics
TMCL 560	Organizational Change and Strategy
TMCL 580	Project Management

b. Course Changes

Designation	Name
THIST 212	American Military History I
TCES 372	Machine Organization and Architecture for Computer Engineers
TCES 481	Senior Project II
TCES 482	Senior Project III
TMCL 510	Principles of Cybersecurity
TMCL 530	Information Assurance, Risk Management, and Security Strategies
TMCL 550	Network and Internet Security
TMCL 570	Cybersecurity and Management

c. Diversity Designation

Designation	Name
TEST 211	Women in Science
TCRIM 225	Diversity and Social Justice in Criminology
TCRIM 271	Introduction to the Sociology of Deviance and Social Control

Discussion

Lauren researched that the official policy of UWT policy is the default, but if a different scale is published in a course's syllabus then that is the determining scale for that course. Janice is concerned that there is so much diversity on one campus as to grading scales. Andrea asked for further information to put into her syllabus.

Alexis wanted to speak about formatting for how course descriptions and objectives are being created. Wording like "I will," and "understand," should not be used, but words like "analyze" would be more measurable and quantitative. Kathy said that curriculum committee in Seattle used to kick proposals like that back to APCC. Janice said that it is not working out at the department level and that the Seattle committee is not kicking proposals like that out and/or sending them back. She is worried about the overall level of quality that the UWT campus produces. Alexis saw nine courses that do not have language that reflected measurable objectives. Doug said that picking a part the details is exactly what APCC is not supposed to do. Lauren said that this is more of a policy problem: changing and articulating the wording, instead of going after particular people. She said that in IAS that there is a very strong push to standardize learning objectives and that all assignments in a syllabus be linked to the learning objectives. Janice suggested talking to EC in that there are too many things coming through the committee and there is too much discrepancy between styles and formats. Doug said that the committee has already seen enough proposals to create 45 courses for every student. Lauren asked if it be placed in the minutes that APCC is requesting to standardize descriptions and learning objectives. Alexis said it hasn't worked. Alexis said that she spent over two hours reading over and preparing. She asked what an acceptable workload would be. Doug said this is why he had opposed that admissions reviewed at APCC. Janice asked if that could change before the next academic year. Doug mentioned that EC noticed there might be too much work for one group. APCC has to deal with how things are right now, but this should be reconsidered. There is too much work for APCC to perform quality control for program changes. He also mentioned APCC hasn't even covered new programs. Doug and the committee would like EC to reconsider what and how much this committee has to look at. Doug will request to speak to Jill. There is a concern among APCC that quality of review is being lost.

Vote

A. Lauren moved to approve the new courses; Luther seconded. Five approved, no one opposed, and Alexis abstained.

B. Lauren moved to approve the course changes; Jenny seconded. Five approved, no one opposed, and no abstentions.

C. Due to time constraints, the vote was postponed until next meeting.

6. Program Change: Add new prefix TEGl to existing Ethnic, Gender, and Labor Studies major

The committee said by all means allow them to change the prefix.

Lauren moved to approve the prefix; Luther seconded. Five approved, no one opposed, and no abstentions.

7. New Business

- Doug announced the next meeting, on 4/22, is in GWP 215, at 12:30 p.m.
- Doug announced a special meeting on 4/2 at CP 331 from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. to discussion the Geo-Spatial program from Urban Studies. The Seattle group is available to come down and teach APCC how to go through this kind of proposal. Doug has posted on GoPost: the proposal, external reviews, and information on how Seattle evaluated programs.

- Doug discussed the spring schedule for APCC meeting. People agreed to the same time and same day.

8. Meeting adjourned 1:48 p.m.