



*Arts & Sciences Senate
Undergraduate Curriculum Committee*

To: Arts and Sciences Senate
From: Edmund Chang, Chair, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee
Re: 2010-2011 Annual Report
Date: September, 2011

I. General Information

On behalf of the CC, I am pleased to submit our annual report for the last academic year, 2010-2011.

The report includes excerpts from the meeting minutes that discuss issues submitted to the Committee. As Chair of the CC in AY 2010-2011, I would be happy to meet with the Executive Committee and/or the Senate to discuss the Committee's concerns.

The curriculum committee met twenty times during the 2010-2011 academic year. Committee members were: Edmund Chang (School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences and Chair of the committee), Darcy Lonsdale (School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences), Ritch Calvin (Women's Studies), Martin Levine (Art), Beth Squire (College of Arts and Science Dean's Office), Nicole Sampson (College of Arts and Sciences), Kane Gillespie (College of Arts and Sciences), Robert Goldenberg (History), Arlene Feldman (Transfer Office, ex officio member), and Leslie Volpe (Registrar's Office, ex officio member). Ridha Kamoua attended as an ex-officio representative from the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences. Student representatives Caitlin Bartow and Corey Platt (undergraduate) attended as their schedules permitted.

Routine matters are handled by the secretary and announced to the committee at each meeting. There were a number of routine matters chiefly involving deletion of courses and changes of course titles, descriptions, course combinations and/or prerequisites to bring them in line with current teaching practices

The Committee worked to publish two updated online versions of the 2011 Bulletin (Spring 2011 and Fall 2011 editions). The secretary also serves as the editor of the Bulletin.

II. General Curricular Matters

The committee began discussion of the General Education review, and how it will affect committee decisions and approvals.

Professor Thomas Hemmick, Chair of the General Education Committee, met with the group on September 22, 2010 to discuss the vision of the Gen Ed committee for a new general education system. The goal is to provide students with a diverse educational foundation that will facilitate and inspire life long active and adaptive learning, and engaged global citizenship.

The committee recommendations include:

- 1-Out of classroom requirement (including service learning, internship, research, university committees, student government, study abroad, group performance, peer instruction, and alternative spring break)
- 2-Learning objective replacement for “developmental” categories
- 3-Themed path options with transcript-level acknowledgement and capstone

The committee aims to make learning outcomes a part of course descriptions, with verb-based definitions.

The “stages” of the proposed general education program are to:

- 1-Acquire and apply foundational skills
- 2-Synthesize knowledge into understanding
- 3-Develop and exercise civil response
- 4-Apply knowledge and skills beyond the classroom

Each “stage” will also incorporate a set of “actions,” “objectives,” and “standards.”

Recommendations from the Gen Ed committee would flow to the Undergraduate Council (University Senate) and eventually to the provost for implementation. The Arts and Sciences Senate Undergrad Curriculum Committee notes that historically, the CC has been responsible for Gen Ed, and hopes that the committee will be consulted soon as the project moves forward.

Earliest implementation would be Fall 2012, but probably later.

The committee appreciates the review of the DEC, but voiced concern that the committee has not been more integrally involved in the Gen Ed discussion.

Hemmick noted that the current ad hoc committee had tentatively proposed that a new committee would be formed to implement any new Gen Ed program, both for “fast-tracking” existing courses into the nascent program or as a committee to review new proposals.

It is the CC’s impression that the current Gen Ed committee is not done with its work, and therefore it is premature to propose an implementation process or an administrative process to review new course proposals once a new Gen Ed program is implemented. However, the CC is concerned that:

- (a) a new committee would create an additional level of bureaucracy for departments. Given its current role vis-à-vis Gen Ed at SB, the CC neither wants to be excluded from the review process, nor does it want to participate in an overly bureaucratic process by which courses would be vetted by multiple committees.
- (b) whereas Gen Ed courses are and likely will be in the purview of the A/S CC, and whereas the CC currently has representation from all academic units except HSC and BUS, and whereas other colleges that have their curricular issues reviewed by the CAS Curriculum Committee have not voiced objections to the current process, it would make sense to augment the current CC with representation from these units rather than create a new committee.

The committee also voiced concern that the discussion to create a new general education program should consider the impact on Stony Brook’s large transfer student population.

The committee discussed Kane’s proposed general education ‘straw model 2’ model, and agreed that the model was easy to understand, and could be implemented.

The group speculated that students majoring in a STEM major would not necessarily be interested in pursuing minors in SBS or HFA, however, those students would then choose 9-credit thematic clusters instead of minors. The committee speculated about how many current students graduate with minors or double majors, and which second major or minors are in a different category (STEM, SBS, HFA) than the major.

The committee agreed that communication and critical thinking skills are necessary for success in any major. Also noted was that the committee does not want to see students unable to do a year study abroad program or take elective courses due to more university requirements. CEAS students may have difficulty satisfying the proposed 'straw 2' requirements in addition to the major requirements, since the CEAS majors are so credit intensive and do not leave much room for electives.

The committee approves the Bulletin Board summary (with minor updates), as approved by the Undergraduate Council on November 30, 2010.

The committee approved forty-three new courses during the 2010-2011 AY, along with a new minor in Creative Writing, and combined degree programs BS/MS in Marine Sciences and BA/MBA in Sustainability Studies.

III. Significant Curricular Changes by Department or Program

Academic Advising (2 new courses)

The following courses were approved:

- ADV 475/476 Undergraduate Teaching Practicum I & II

Anthropology (1 new course)

The following course was approved:

- ANT 205-J Ancient Japanese Civilization

Art

The committee approved minor changes to Art course descriptions to reflect changes in course content.

Asian and Asian American Studies (5 new courses)

The committee approved updates to AAS major and minor requirements, and an Honors program in Asian and Asian American Studies.

The committee approved a proposal to change AAS 350 to CHIR 426; change the prerequisites to CHI 302, and add Skill 3.

The following courses were approved:

- CHI 201-Skill 3 Intensive Intermediate Chinese
- JPN 201-Skill 3 Intensive Intermediate Japanese
- AAS 495 Honors Thesis
- JPN 475/476 Undergraduate Teaching Practicum I & II

Atmospheric Sciences (1 new course)

The following course was approved:

- ATM 201-E Climate and Climate Change

Undergraduate Biology (1 new course)

The committee approved a prerequisite change for BIO 339, and approved the online offering of BIO 354 Evolution.

The following course was approved:

- BIO 364 Lab Techniques in Cancer Biology

Chemistry (1 new course)

The committee approved modification of the Chemistry and Engineering Chemistry minors.

The following course was approved:

- CHE 115 as a crosslist w/ ENV 115-E Chemistry, Life, Environment

Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies (1 new course)

Several changes to course prerequisites were approved.

The following course was approved:

- CCS/MUS 324-K Jazz and American Culture

Continuing Education (1 new course)

The following course was approved:

- CEF 347 Principles and Practices of Special Education

Creative Writing (12 new courses)

The committee was pleased to approve the proposed Creative Writing minor, and the following affiliated courses:

- CWL 190-B Introduction to Contemporary Literature
- CWL 202-D Introduction to Creative Writing: Writing Everything
- CWL 300-G Forms of Creative Nonfiction
- CWL 305-G Forms of Fiction
- CWL 310-G Forms of Poetry
- CWL 315-G Forms of Scriptwriting
- CWL 320-G Forms of Interdisciplinary Arts
- CWL 325-H Forms of Science Writing
- CWL 330-I Topics in European Literature for Writers
- CWL 335-K Topics in American Literature for Writers
- CWL 340-J Topics in World Literature for Writers
- CWL 450 Senior Project

English (1 new course)

The following course was approved:

- EGL 388 Interdisciplinary Topics

European Languages (2 new courses)

The following courses were approved:

- GRK 121/122-Skill 3 Modern Greek I and II

Geosciences (1 new course)

GEO 307-H Global Environmental Change was added as a crosslist with ENV 304.

History (1 new course)

The following course was approved:

- HIS 212-J Ancient History of Mesoamerica

Journalism (1 new course)

The following course prerequisite changes were approved, JRN 371, 390, 490, along with the proposed realignment of the journalism major.

The following course was approved:

- JRN 489 Specialized Internship

Linguistics (1 new course)

The following course was approved:

- LIN 320 English Grammar

School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences

Marine Sciences (2 new courses)

The committee was pleased to approve the proposed combined BS/MS in Marine Sciences.

The committee approved updates to the description and prerequisites for MAR 304.

The following courses were approved:

- MAR 355 Coastal Cultural Experience
- MAR 356-K Maritime Traditions of New England

Mathematics

The committee approved updates to MAT prerequisites.

Music (1 new course)

The committee approved updates to the Music major, and Music and Jazz minors.

The following course was approved:

- CCS/MUS 324-K Jazz and American Culture

Philosophy

The committee did not approve the request to limit PHI 108 to freshmen and sophomores only. For consistency of learning experience among multiple sections of a course, the committee believes that all sections of a given academic course should have the same entrance requirements based on class standing (freshmen, sophomore, etc.), and that if a section of a multiple-section course does have different entrance requirements, there should be a substantive academic justification for the difference.

The committee has reviewed the justification for this section from Grim and Crease, but does not see the demonstrated academic justification to warrant the enforcement of the proposed prerequisites. If the course was not oversubscribed, the department would not have submitted this proposal. However, since there is always excess demand for the course, Grim would like to see the students who would most benefit from the skills taught in the course be able to enroll.

The proposal to limit PHI 108 to freshmen and sophomores has catalyzed a broader discussion regarding curricular policy within CAS. The committee wishes to address more carefully the questions related to reserving seats for various student cohorts, priority registration, students repeating courses, when it is appropriate to enforce prerequisites based on academic level, and other questions related to student

enrollment in CAS courses. While the committee addresses these college-wide issues, we urge the department to make the following changes, effective Fall 2011:

1. Change the course prerequisites to “Prerequisites: Open to freshmen and sophomores, and open to juniors and seniors who have not completed DEC B.”
2. Add the following sentence to the course description: “Material is intended for freshmen and sophomores.”

Physics and Astronomy (1 new course)

The committee approved updates to PHY course prerequisites.

The following course was approved:

- PHY 420 Introduction to Accelerator Science and Technology

Political Science

The committee approved updates to the POL major and minor.

Psychology (1 new course)

The following course was approved:

- PSY 364 Judgment and Decision Making

Sustainability Studies (3 new courses)

The committee was pleased to approve the proposed combined BA/MBA in Sustainability Studies, and approved prerequisite updates for SUS courses.

The following courses were approved:

- EDP, EHI, SUS 487 Research

Theatre Arts

The committee approved prerequisite changes for THR 315/316.

Undergraduate Academic Affairs/University Scholars (2 new courses)

The following courses were approved:

- SBC 475/476 Undergraduate Teaching Practicum I and II

The committee approved the prerequisite changes submitted by the Honors College Directors, and the changes with the addition of the academic year standing appropriate to the course (i.e. Second year Honors College membership for HON 201, Third year Honors College membership for 301, etc.).

HON 105 Modes of Knowledge

Prerequisite: First year Honors College membership

HON 106 Modes of Being

Prerequisites: First year Honors College membership; HON 105

HON 201 The Arts and Society

Prerequisites: Second year Honors College membership; HON 105 and HON 106

HON 301 Science, Engineering, Medicine, and Society

Prerequisites: Third year Honors College membership; HON 105, HON 106, and HON 201

HON 401 Global Issues

Prerequisites: Fourth year Honors College membership; HON 105, HON 106, HON 201, and HON 301

Women's Studies (2 new courses)

The WST crosslisting of WST/SOC 204-F Intimate Relationships was inactivated.

The following courses were approved:

- WST 210-F Contemporary Issues in Women's and Gender Studies
- WST 291-G Introduction to Feminist Theory

The committee approved the proposal to change WST 301-G Histories of Feminism to DEC K.

Updates to WST major and minor were approved.

Writing

WRT 100 and WRT 103 were inactivated.

Respectfully submitted,
Kane Gillespie