

MINUTES

Curriculum Development Committee

April 16, 2009 Bawell 209 3:30 – 4:30 p.m

MEMBERS	DEPARTMENT	PRESENT	ABSENT
Pat Riddle, Chair	Engineering & Media Technologies	X	
Kathleen Affholter	Natural & Behavioral Sciences	X	
Charlie Anderson	Liberal Arts	X	
Minoo Askari	Natural & Behavioral Sciences	X	
Sharon Burlingame	Business & Computer Technology	X	
Karen Cornell	Library Services	X	
Bill Davis	Engineering & Media Technologies	X	
Linda Ellams	Business & Computer Technology	X	
Sydney Gingrow	English	X	
Judy Gosch	Curriculum	X	
Mike Hudson	Business & Community Services		X
Margaret Jenkins	English	X	
Anne Kinggard	Liberal Arts	X	
Sarah McMurray	Student Affairs		X
Carolyn Renier	Mathematics	X	
Bob Stern	Mathematics	X	

Others in attendance: Dr. Jonathan Fowler, Dr. Milton Grimes, Ms. Marilyn Palatinus

AGENDA ITEMS DISCUSSED

Dr. Grimes stated there nation-wide demand for non-specific modern foreign language courses. Regarding concern that three weeks is not enough time for students to meet course objectives, he replied that there are many three-week language courses for college credit all over the world, and even though there are different requirements for courses abroad, we award credits that transfer in as standard courses. CDC members ask about sequence courses: if credit is awarded for a course abroad, will a student complete requirements in order to progress to the next course in a sequence? Dr. Grimes replied that faculty are qualified to teach, and syllabi are reviewed by TBR. Proposals for courses are submitted by instructors to him. If he approves, proposals are reviewed by Dr. Short, Assistant Chancellor (vice chancellor) for Academic Affairs at TBR. If she approves, the course information is submitted to the VP of Academic Affairs on each TBR campus. He or she will disseminate information to department deans who will sign off on courses. A syllabus template has been created for TNCIS courses including learning outcomes. J. Gosch asked that syllabi be submitted to Curriculum office to be included on Master Syllabi list on line.

M. Palatinus distributed copies of catalog course descriptions from University of Memphis LALI special topics language courses and stated that the proposed courses were designed for transfer.

When asked about academic rigor and inflated grades, Dr. Grimes explained that “considerable research . . . shows that students in study abroad programs have higher GPAs” but suggested that may reflect the caliber of student who chooses study abroad programs. Dr. Anderson stated that not all faculty teaching traditional courses keep students in classes full time. Dr. Fowler noted that “if a student is taking only one class and is focused on only one, that student will do better.”

C. Renier asked if students registered for TNCIS courses are allowed to register for online courses. Dr. Grimes stated that students in three-week courses are not allowed to take two classes, and in five-week or six week courses students are required to register for two classes at a time. No one monitors students’ schedules to check on what each is registered for. J. Gosch will review students enrolled in courses offered in the past. She suggested that perhaps a procedure is needed to check advising for these students.

M. Jenkins asked about prerequisites for classes. M. Grimes stated that prerequisite checks are a records function. For special topics courses, no prerequisites are set in the computer. J. Gosch will review students enrolled in special topics literature courses in the past.

B. Davis asked how many other TBR colleges and universities offer TNCIS courses. Dr. Grimes stated that all schools are involved, but Pellissippi State has by far more course offerings than other schools. He would like to use Pellissippi State as the example to urge all TBR schools to institute the foreign language courses. We may expect money to pay instructors to teach Chinese may come from the Confucius Institute which as programs providing instructors for free.

C. Anderson asked about the difference between teaching Spanish and Chinese. There was brief discussion about letters versus characters.

After discussion of options, the group agreed that instead of MLA, courses would have MLC, Modern Language and Culture, as the rubric.

Dr. Grimes, Dr. Fowler, M. Palatinus left. The group agreed to reflect on the discussion and vote online.

Discussion of EET: missing information on master syllabus. No DSP required?

ACTIONS TAKEN

I. MET – members will vote on-line

II. ANT – approved with addition of DSP requirements

RECORDED BY: J. A. Gosch