

College of Arts and Sciences
Curriculum Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
February 5, 2009

Present: Sue Ellen Henry, Colleen Gavigan, Yulissa Hidalgo, Josh Goodman, Dennis Hopple, Ueli Daepf, Elaine Hopkins, George Exner, Stephanie Larson, Helen Morris-Keitel, Scott Meinke, Chris Zappe, Don Dearborn, Nancy Frazier

Absent:

Mr. Hunter called the meeting to order at 11:07.

The first topic of discussion was the implementation of the Core College Curriculum (CCC) and the fact that it is necessarily linked to the switch to the credit hour system. Bucknell is out of compliance with state regulations because although we consider our courses to be four-credit-hour courses, there are only three contact hours for most of them. This issue is being studied by Robert Midkiff, who will bring a plan to the faculty governance system in the spring.

Mr. Zappe distributed copies of a proposed timeline for the implementation of the CCC and we discussed it. We agreed that the timeline needs to be part of the document that will be sent to faculty tomorrow.

The proposed implementation recognizes that given current teaching capacity, classroom space, and financial constraints, we will have to phase in the curriculum, particularly the new requirements such as foreign language and IP courses, over several years. It was also acknowledged that departments will need time to design culminating experiences for disciplinary depth (i.e., the majors).

We discussed what we know about the number of students who currently take at least one semester of foreign language and how many could fulfill their FL requirement by going abroad to a non-English-speaking country. Bill Kenny, associate dean of humanities, is carefully studying this issue. Ms. Morris-Keitel reported that according to a study of recent data on the National Survey of Student Engagement, 45% of the seniors surveyed over the past several years reported that they took a foreign language course during their four years at Bucknell. This requirement may have an effect on Admissions, in that it would attract students who are willing to taking a foreign language course and discourage those who choose Bucknell because we do not have a foreign language requirement. There is some concern within the committee about whether students will be able to study a language they are interested in for personal or curricular reasons. We talked about the possibility of polling the incoming first-year students (Class of 2013) to get a sense of what languages they would prefer to take if the requirement were in place. The proposed College Core Curriculum Council and the Dean's Office would need to closely monitor the numbers as the curriculum is implemented and beyond and work to add staffing where there is enrollment pressure.

As the College would phase in the new curriculum and phase out the CLA requirements, it was proposed that the Broadened Perspectives and capstone requirements be waived for certain classes. Mr. Exner suggested that instead of waiving the Natural and Fabricated Worlds requirement, we could stipulate that any Environmental Connections course fulfills that requirement. He also noted that according to our proposed implementation timetable, the Class of 2014 has fewer general education requirements than the classes that come before and after it. We talked about giving these students the option to complete one of the CLA courses that students in other class years would still be required to take but decided against creating a special requirement for just one class year.

The committee spent time talking about the open forum (Tuesday, February 10) and the College meeting (Thursday, February 19) where faculty will vote on the proposal. We decided to vote by paper ballot and to ask the secretary of the College, Greg Krohn, and the parliamentarian, Gary Steiner, to count the ballots immediately after the voting ends.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Hopkins
Secretary