

UUF Curriculum Committee  
Minutes of the Meeting of September 1, 2005

Present: Julie Amon, John Blackwell (Chair), Russ Borski, Stephen Britcher, Gary Chottiner, Philip Dunker, Don Feke, Lynne Ford, Steven Hauck, Kathleen Horvath, Jill Korbin, Peter Lagerlof, Sandy Piderit, Gary Previts and Peter Whiting

Also present: Virginia Morrison and Stuart Youngner

I. Announcements: Chair John Blackwell welcomed all to first meeting. He also noted past discussion in the Executive Committee on the role of this Curriculum Committee, and SAGES assessment and governance. The UUFCC is to recommend on curricular issues and pass those along to the Executive Committee, with a summary of activities to go to the Faculty Senate.

II. SAGES Update: Peter Whiting reported that SAGES is going very well because of the assistance of many across the campus. The number of First Seminars has increased from 13 to 70, all with faculty, writing co-instructors and classrooms assigned. Ten of these are topics seminars and are very popular; hope to expand on these. The goal at one time had been for all First Seminars to meet from 12:30 - 1:45.

Sixty University Seminars are planned for spring; still need 20+, some to be taught as "one-time only" courses by Presidential Fellows or Dean's Fellows. Group of faculty review all these and issue advice memos before a course is added to the schedule.

III. The minutes of the meeting of May 3 were approved as distributed.

IV. Updates on Curricular Activities of Constituent Schools.  
Only the College of Arts and Sciences had any report and the minutes of the meeting of May 19 was part of the agenda.

V. Old Business: SAGES Oversight to be addressed as an ongoing issue

VI. New Business:

A. Proposal from Dept. of Bioethics to discontinue cross-listing of their BETH 271 course as RLGN 271 and PHIL 271.

Don Feke explained that it is a financial issue of tuition distribution. There was a lengthy discussion in which it was explained that this is a very popular course and that it is taught entirely by faculty from Bioethics yet a portion of the tuition dollars go to Religion and Philosophy. The committee also asked about any possible academic impact of this change and the numbers of students who might choose not to enroll without the cross-listing designation. This is a required course in the new Public Health Studies major.

Chair Blackwell proposed that he call the chairs of Religion and Philosophy for their opinion as there was considerable concern expressed for the impact of this change on those students, though it was noted that the two chairs had both signed off on the course action form giving their approval to the change. The CAS Educational Programs Committee declined to address the issue indicating that it was not within their charge of academic issues. But the UUFCC felt there may possibly be an impact on the GER and

on CAS majors who presently take this course as part of their GER while it has triple listing but they would not be able to do so if it only has the BETH listing.

Professor Youngner said that he did not intend that this change have any negative impact on students and was willing to try to work through the details. He did note that Bioethics faculty have been encouraged by CAS and administration to engage in teaching undergraduates.

D. Feke said that a review of budgetary processes, including the problems raised in this case, is underway at the university.

Discussion will continue at the next meeting with some additional data to be gathered by Julie Amon on how many students had included this course for the GER.

B. New Course Proposal MPHP 306. Virginia Morrison was present to respond to any questions on this course which is being proposed as both a graduate and an undergraduate course, History and Philosophy of Public Health. It is required for the new undergraduate Public health Studies major and will also be available to graduate and professional students in the Master of Public Health program as an elective or a concentration. The MOTION to approve this course was unanimous.

Proposed changes to the undergraduate Biochemistry program will be deferred to the next meeting when a sponsor can be present.

Other course proposals reviewed and approved are  
USSO 229 A Study of Power: Criteria Essential to its Rise and Fall  
USSO 230 Leadership and the Global Agenda: Images & Construction of Business as an Agent of World Benefit  
USNA 216 Fuel Cells - Reality, Prospects and Myth  
FSNA 101 Flight: from fantasy to reality  
FSNA 102 Observing and Describing the Natural World  
FSSO 103 Learning and Knowledge Creation

The meeting was adjourned at 1 p.m.

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Lynne E. Ford  
Secretary pro tem