

CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
University Undergraduate Faculty
Curriculum Committee

Minutes of January 22, 2008

Committee members in attendance:

John Blackwell, CSE Chair
Peter Lagerlof, CSE
Russ Borski, CAS
Ken Singer, CAS
James Swain, SOM-Nutrition
Vasu Ramanujam, WSOM
Patricia Underwood, SON
Robert Greene (ex. officio, CAS Ed. Programs Comm.)
Sree Sreenath, *ex officio*, Chair CSE Undergraduate Studies Committee)
Tim Fogarty (ex. officio, Assoc. Dean for Undergraduate Education, WSOM)
Don Feke (ex. officio, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education)
Jeff Wolcowitz (ex. officio, Dean of Undergraduate Studies)
Emily Garvey (student)
Gennifer Gibbs (student)
Cynthia Pierce (student)

Committee members absent:

Gary Deming, CAS
Lynn Lotas (ex. officio, Assoc. Dean for Undergraduate Program, SON)

Regular guests:

Jill Korbin, Assoc. Dean, CAS
Peter Whiting, Associate Dean and Director, SAGES

Guests:

Don Hunt

1. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by J. Blackwell at 11:30 am
2. Minutes of January 22, 2008 were approved with one change. Item 4, second line under Procedure "recommendation to the *Senate*" should be replaced with "recommendation to the *UUF Executive Committee*".
3. Consent Agenda:
 - a. Course Actions – Group 1 (those affecting a single school; assumed to be approved)
MGT 395 add a pre-requisite "*open to accounting & management majors*"
NUT 328 change title to: "*Child Nutrition, Development, and Health*" and change course description.
[A question was raised about the necessity of nutrition courses provided by the School of Medicine having to go through CAS. It was noted that a major in nutrition would have to go through CAS because that college owns the major. J. Korbin will check and share the information with CAS.]

Motion: To accept the consent agenda. (passed)

4. CSE proposal for modification of SAGES requirements for engineering students:
Continuation of discussions from Dec. 13, 2007 and Jan. 22, 2008.

Modified Proposal

A modification of the CSE proposal section on Writing Proficiency was presented to the Committee. Slight editorial changes were suggested and it reads as follows:

Writing Proficiency:

Seminar-intense option

Students electing to take the university seminars will be evaluated by the Department of English based on a portfolio from First Seminar and the two University Seminars (as in the present SAGES program).

Sequence and breadth option

Students *electing this option* will be evaluated by the Department of English based on a portfolio of essays from the First Seminar and ENGL 398/ENGR 398.

Under each option, students will be required to demonstrate competency in English composition at a C level. Students not judged competent will be required to pass ENGL 180 or ENGL 183 (or an equivalent English course designed to improve writing skills).

UUFCC Options

The suggestion was made that the UUFCC identify the explicit problem for which a solution is sought by CSE and that the potential unintended consequences of any proposal be considered. The Chairperson reviewed the options before the UUFCC:

- a. Approve as proposed and forward to UUFXC (to go on the UUF agenda for May)
- b. Approve with regrets and submit a resolution with "whereases" to the UUFXC
- c. Disapprove and return to CSE with reasons and/or suggested modifications
- d. Report a negative vote to UUFXC (to go on the UUF agenda for May) and request that the issue be on the UUF agenda for May.

Problem clarification

P. Lagerlof stated that the problem with SAGES is that it decreases the flexibility for students in obtaining depth and breadth in selection of Arts and Sciences courses and this is important for CSE students.

It was also noted that when students do not get their 1st or 2nd choices for university seminars this creates problems for the students and their advisors.

Other committee members suggested that extra flexibility for CSE students leads to less flexibility for CSE students who have transferred to major in other schools. It also decreases the unified marketing of CWRU to prospective students.

The question was raised about whether options could be developed within the SAGES program that are more appropriate for CSE students. P. Whiting stated that a small subset of CSE students may have decreased flexibility but SAGES can accommodate most CSE students.

Discussion of UUFCC options:

One suggestion was not to vote to “disapprove” but to develop a list of concerns across the other colleges and schools (CAS, WSOM, & SON) and ask CSE for a response. Concerns have focused on problems for CSE students who transfer to other majors, lack of flexibility, and setting up a separate system for one college. There was some support for this suggestion. CSE representatives believed that all issues have been considered, however. Some UUFCC members felt that they did not fully understand the rationale for the CSE positions. It was also noted that the English Department had not been consulted relative to the new proposed change in evaluating the writing component. There might be other faculty who could evaluate the writing component.

UUFCC members supported continuing the dialog across colleges. It was also suggested that the CSE request be suspended for a limited time to allow SAGES impact study information to be brought forward.

J. Blackwell requested that the other colleges provide feedback.

5. Next Meeting: March 6, 2008 11:30-1:00 pm

6. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm