

CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
University Undergraduate Faculty
Curriculum Committee

Minutes of the December 13, 2007 meeting

Committee members in attendance:

John Blackwell, CSE, Chair
Russ Borski, CAS
Don Feke, *ex officio*, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education
Tim Fogarty, *ex officio*, Assoc. Dean for Undergraduate Education, WSOM
Emily Garvey, student
Bob Greene, *ex officio*, Chair, CAS Committee on Educational Programs
Peter Lagerlof, CSE
Cynthia Pierce, student
Vasu Ramanujam, WSOM
Sree Sreenath, *ex officio*, Chair CSE Undergraduate Studies Committee
Patricia Underwood, SON
Jeff Wolcowitz, *ex officio*, Dean of Undergraduate Studies

Committee members absent:

Gary Deimling, CAS
Gennifer Gibbs, student
Lynn Lotas, *ex officio*, Assoc. Dean for Undergraduate Programs, SON
Ken Singer, CAS
James Swain, SOM-Nutrition

Regular guests:

Pat Crago, Associate Dean, CSE
Jill Korbin, *ex officio*, Associate Dean, CAS
Peter Whiting, *ex officio*, Associate Dean and Director, SAGES

Others:

Sue Hinze, CAS
Susan Zull, Secretary of the University Faculty

Call to order and approval of minutes

The meeting was called to order by committee chair John Blackwell at 11:30 a.m. Upon motion, duly seconded, the minutes of the November 1 meeting were approved as circulated.

Approval of consent agenda

- Program action:
 - WSOM change to the marketing concentration in for the BS in Management
- Course actions:
 - CAS ANTH 378 Reproductive Health: An Evolutionary Perspective (new course, SAGES department seminar)
 - CAS BIOL 365: Evo-Devo: Evolution of Body Plans (changing pre- and co-requisites, SAGES department seminar)
 - CAS MATH 352: Mathematics Capstone (new course, SAGES capstone)

- CAS SOCI 325: Department Seminar in Sociology: Great Books (new course, SAGES department seminar)
- CSE EMBE 322: Applications of Biomedical Imaging (new course)
- CSE ECHE 396: Research and Innovation (new course)
- CSE EMAE 360: Engineering Design (new bulletin description)
- CAS/SOM BETH 271: Bioethics (remove RLG cross-list)
- CAS USSO 239: Change Agents: Past, Present and Future (new bulletin description)
- CAS USSO 283: Life is a Contact Sport (new course)
- CAS USSY 236: Romance – the most comic of catastrophes (new course)
- CAS USSY 260: Divisiveness or Dialogue: How We Deal with Difference (new course)
- CAS USSY 269: The Symbolism of Evil (new course)
- CAS USSY 275: Colors, Capes, and Characters: American Comics Symbolism (new course)

Upon motion, duly seconded, the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

Case School of Engineering modification of SAGES requirements for engineering majors

Recognizing his other role as chair of the CSE *ad hoc* committee on SAGES, which was responsible for developing the CSE resolution, Professor Blackwell asked the committee members whether it was appropriate for him to present the CSE curricular change while chairing this meeting. There was no objection to his continuing as chair.

The text of the motion passed by the CSE faculty with background material had been distributed prior to this meeting; the documents are appended to these minutes as “Motion from SAGES Ad-hoc Committee”. Professor Blackwell summarized the CSE modification as follows.

1. All engineering students will continue to participate in SAGES, but the two university seminars become optional. A student opting not to take the university seminars will take six humanities and social science (H&SS) courses, subject to a depth and breadth requirement.
2. Writing proficiency will be certified based on a C or higher grade in SAGES First Seminar and a passing grade in ENGR398/ENGL398 (SAGES departmental seminar).

He noted the following issues as background to the CSE motion:

- The changes widen a student's choices of H&SS courses beyond what is currently offered in the University Seminars, and increase flexibility for student taking a minor in a H&SS discipline.
- A large fraction of the SAGES seminars are being taught by temporary or visiting faculty, contrary to the understanding that this would expose engineering undergraduates to senior research faculty in small seminars. Early exposure to a community of scholars at a research university was the key factor for CSE in requiring the SAGES program.
- Consultation with the CAS faculty indicates that most of the H&SS courses previously elected by engineering undergraduates continue to be taught by CAS. Thus the above changes will not require CAS to offer additional courses.
- Members of the department of English indicated that First Seminar lacked sufficient English instruction to be the sole criterion for writing proficiency. However, CSE regards

the two credits of English instruction in ENGR398/ENGL398 as balancing what is lost if the two university seminars are not taken.

Professor Blackwell responded to questions on the above issues, and discussion also ensued on the following:

- The effects of this change on transfer and binary students, and also on current students moving from an engineering major to one in CAS, WSOM or FPBSON
- The lack of comprehensive data on student performance in and as a result of SAGES, and the fact that a full cohort of students in the SAGES program has not yet graduated.
- The university-wide impact of the proposed modification on student recruitment and placement

It was agreed that more information needs to be obtained and a broader discussion needs to take place in order to evaluate the proposal. It is essential to address whether any modification of the SAGES program should be done university wide. The faculty involved in undergraduate education should have an opportunity to gather and assess additional data, and to consider the broader issues of how such a modification affects curricula in all schools.

It was agreed that this matter should be discussed again at the next UUF Curriculum Committee meeting on January 10. Professor Blackwell will invite faculty from the English department to attend, and Professor Bob Greene, chair of the CAS Committee on Educational Programs, will solicit and present input from the CAS department chairs. Randy Deike, VP for Enrollment Management, will also be asked to attend the meeting and offer his input with regard to the specific issue of the effect of CSE changes on undergraduate recruiting.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Susan J. Zull
Secretary of the University Faculty