

**UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF APRIL 20, 2005**

Members Present: Professors Deiulio, Gillman, Mazarrella, Nichols, Pringle, Rahim, Savitzky, Selim, Thornton, Weber; Ms. Doyle, Safko; Guests: Dean Bobby Hoffmann Bartels, Prof. Peter Knipp

Prof. Pringle, UCC Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m.

1. Matters arising from the minutes of April 6, 2005.

MUSC 411 and MUSC 413. Prof. Reimer clarified that MUSC 411 is replacing MUSC 413 in the music major, but they don't want to remove MUSC 413 from the catalog because some students might want it as an elective. Prof. Savitzky proposed acceptance of the new course, MUSC 411; Prof. Rahim seconded the proposal. Carried unanimously.

SOWK 330. It has now been submitted for an area of inquiry and will be considered in September by the Faculty Council on Liberal Learning and then the UCC. Last time, we were simply passing it as a new course.

2. Areas of Inquiry.

Prof. Knipp, Acting President of the Senate, reported that the Senate was "surprised" there was not more scrutiny by the UCC of the new courses on the areas of inquiry. There is a process in place to accept new courses into the CNU curriculum and this process should not be reversed. Even though the Faculty Council on Liberal Learning and Academic Life examined the courses carefully, the UCC plays the role of maintaining high standards whereas the FCLLAL is a force for change and addresses the problem from a different perspective.

Prof. Pringle had divided the committee into groups to consider each area of inquiry.

Creative Expressions: (Profs. Deiulio, Nichols, Savitzky; Ms. Doyle)—

Prof. Savitzky reported she had spent two hours on these and looked carefully at the new courses. The only concern she had was that there are no prerequisites for most of the courses and this raises a concern about rigor. On many of the art and theater courses there are sections specifically for majors and others for non-majors simply desiring to fulfill an area of inquiry requirement. She expressed concern that this may cause a problem with the computer. Prof. Gillman responded to both questions.

1) The specific course on playwriting that Prof. Savitzky had mentioned is now a WI course and there are usually an equal number of theater majors and English majors in the class. Prof. Steven Breese spends a lot of time introducing students to the problematic of writing plays and then the students compose their own plays. Since it is WI there is in fact a prerequisite (two English courses, as for all WI courses).

2) The reason there are sometimes one section for majors and one for other students in theater courses is because there are a lot of people on campus who have a personal

interest in theater and acting, and often take these courses as electives. But sometimes they sign up for them and then there is no space for the majors.

The question of prerequisites may need to be looked at more closely, since there need to be some upper level courses in the areas of inquiry so that students can take their “liberal learning emphases” (which require at least one course at the 300- or 400-level). How, then, will we prevent first-year students from taking a class that is too hard?

Prof. Nichols commented on PSYCH 431. A prerequisite is senior standing, but do we really want seniors to be taking an A or I course in their senior year? Several members of the committee commented that they encourage students to save some of their general education courses until their junior or senior year to give themselves some variety in their schedule senior year.

THEA 210 and THEA 211. Both are titled “The Dramatic Impulse” with the period under study being clarified in a parenthetical subtitle. Prof. Nichols questioned whether this was a good idea for it may make transcripts unclear. Prof. Gillman agreed that the course titles should probably read “The Modern Dramatic Impulse” and “The Classical Dramatic Impulse” and will take this recommendation back to her department.

In the course titled “From the Boardroom to Broadway” Prof. Nichols didn’t see how the syllabus specifically addressed how acting skills are employed in various settings. Prof. Gillman will take this recommendation back to her department as well.

Prof. Mazzarella proposed acceptance of the “creative expressions” area of inquiry and all courses therein with the committee’s recommendations forwarded to the dean’s office. Dean Bartels will forward the suggestions to the individual departments. As in all cases, Prof. Pringle checks with the departments to see if they agree with the committee’s recommendation and then she forwards them to the Senate if so. Prof. Nichols seconded the proposal; unanimous acceptance.

Formal and Informal Reasoning (Profs. Gillman, Pringle, Selim, Ms. Raines). Prof. Pringle raised a question about ENGL 310. The proposal mentioned that it had been taught previously but it didn’t mention the number. This needs to be clarified so that a student cannot retake the course for credit.

Prof. Savitzky is concerned that there are not enough courses in this area. Dean Bartels explained that there will be another chance for people to submit courses in September and she will encourage submissions in areas that need them.

Prof. Pringle proposed acceptance of the “formal and informal reasoning” area of inquiry. Prof. Thornton seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

At this point the committee had to address catalog copy issues because we were working on a deadline. The UCC will reconvene during exam week to consider the remaining areas of inquiry.

4. Program Changes:

Bachelor of Science in Chemistry. Prof. Rahim asked why we need the chemistry major again when it was removed in the past for lack of students. Prof. Savitzky responded that since we are attracting better students at CNU the interest in chemistry among students has gone up, as is indicated by the student surveys included in the proposal. Prof. Savitzky proposed acceptance, Prof. Selim seconded; motion carried unanimously.

The other four program changes were considered as a group because they are existing majors and the wording is simply being changed to reflect the fact that the department of fine and performing arts has been divided into three departments. This new wording is more concise and recognizes the new organization of the departments. The new wordings are listed below:

Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Music

Bachelor of Arts with a major in Theater

Bachelor of Arts with a major in Studio Art

Bachelor of Arts with a major in Art History

Prof. Savitzky proposed acceptance of these titles, Prof. Deiulio seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Deiulio