

Faculty Curriculum Committee Minutes
Friday, April 21, 2017
Stern room 409

Present: Gayle Goudy (chair), Andrew Przeworski (secretary), Tom Carroll, Doug Friedman, Chad Galuska, Rick Heldrich, Gibbs Knotts, Nenad Radakovic, Kathleen Rogers (2017-18 member), Wayne Smith (2017-18 member)

Registrar's Office: Julie Dahl

Academic Affairs: Lynn Cherry

Presentation of the Agenda (Goudy)

Old Business

1. We approved the minutes from the March meeting
2. Curriculum proposals results - all proposals from our March meeting passed the Senate.
3. P/F policy – The policy for taking a class pass/fail has been modified, but there still isn't a policy allowing for the creation of classes that are always pass/fail. Current catalog policy says that students have a choice of whether to take a class pass/fail. The policy may need to be a joint project with other committees (Academic Planning? Standards?)
4. Variable topics – we haven't yet received input from the registrar. This project was initiated two years ago, but has moved in fits and starts. Are we willing to keep waiting for the Registrar?

Should the name "Special Topics" be reserved for courses that are actually new and experimental? That was the original purpose of the name. Some departments are creating topics courses and avoiding any further FCC review. Some committee members feel that some of these topics courses are well enough defined that the initial FCC review is sufficient. There are two separate issues here: the technical issue of the mechanism for ST shopping, and the faculty oversight of ST courses.

Proposal: create 3 acronyms. One for experimental courses subject to the 3 in 5 rule, that can't be shopped. One for narrowly defined variable topics courses that aren't subject to the 3 in 5 rule, but can be shopped. One for experimental courses that are subject to the 3 in 5 rule, but can be shopped.

After some discussion, this is reduced to two categories: ST which is shoppable and subject to the 3 in 5 rule, and variable content which isn't shoppable and isn't subject to 3 in 5. Perhaps multiple identical ST courses shouldn't be run in the same semester. For ST courses, departments would have to submit syllabi to be reviewed by FCC, to enforce the 3 in 5 rule.

Another proposal is to alter the College's course numbering system, so courses could be tagged to indicate which other programs they might be suitable for. However, this sounds like it would be a massive overhaul of existing curriculum.

The RO doesn't have the resources to continue performing the shopping task, so will be sending that responsibility back to departments.

Vote: the committee agrees that we will create rules distinguishing ST from other variable content course

Vote: the committee agrees that ST courses will be shoppable, subject to the 3-in-5 rule (overseen by FCC), will submit syllabi for each section (to facilitate that oversight) and can have SLOs that vary by section. Variable content courses aren't shoppable, but can still count toward other programs on a case-by-case basis through exceptions management. They aren't subject to the 3-in-5 rule and won't be required to continue submitting syllabi to FCC. The SLOs won't change categorically.

5. Variable content – is the current 30% guideline for interdisciplinary programs the appropriate number? Should we change it? We don't want to try to attach a number to this, so would perhaps only suggest a change in the way that catalog descriptions are worded. Maybe something like “when content is appropriate”, and just leave it to the chairs.
6. Undergraduate certificates – there's now a draft policy on undergraduate certificates
Discussion: the committee is concerned that policy will be implemented without faculty approval.
Vote: the FCC requests that the implementation of this policy be tabled until appropriate faculty committees have a chance to review it and report to the Senate for discussion.
7. Guidelines for SLOs – Gayle and Andrew had a meeting with Divya Bhati to discuss improved guidelines for course/program SLOs.

New Business

1. New curriculum proposal:
 - a. URST (Keenan)
Modifications: the syllabus suggests GPA point values that aren't correct. The course title on the syllabus isn't correct
Decision: approved pending modification
2. Syllabus grading scale – this is probably something for Standards, not us.
3. FCC procedure – it would be difficult to implement an actual rule here, but we'll put guidance on the website suggesting that proposers not produce piecemeal changes.
4. FCC website will be updated over the summer.
5. Select a chair/secretary for 2017/18 – we selected Andrew Przeworski as secretary. We selected Gayle Goudy and Chad Galuska as co-chairs.

Upcoming Business

1. The next FCC meeting is in Fall 2017.