

ARTS & SCIENCES COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON THE CURRICULUM

ANNUAL REPORT 2012

Committee Charge

The Committee on Curriculum shall address general issues associated with the curriculum as described in the Undergraduate Bulletin to ensure that the Bulletin accurately represents what Departments and programs offer and that those offerings are in keeping with the policies established by the Arts and Sciences Council; address proposals for new majors, minors, and programs; review proposals by Departments to change their majors; and determine scheduling and implementation of necessary program reviews.

Meetings

The committee met 13 times during the 11-12 academic year. The Committee met six times in the fall and seven times in the spring. Each meeting was 90 minutes.

Basic Activities

The committee considered 3 **new majors**: 1. Romance Studies 2. Arts of the Moving Image and 3. Marine Science and Conservation. The new Romance Studies was approved. Revisions were suggested for the Marine Sciences major. We expect to consider that revision in the fall. The Arts of the Moving Image (AMI) proposal was withdrawn after extensive discussion and consultation both with the Director, Stan Abe but also with Dean's Baker and Aravamudan as well as Michal Hardt in Literature. It was determined that the major would not be sustainable without broader regular rank faculty support and a host department as its institutional home. The AMI faculty unanimously voted to remain a Certificate. They may reconsider the option of a major in a couple of years. The Committee also briefly discussed the emergent proposal for a major in Global Health.

The Committee also reviewed and approved minor changes to the following majors and or minors: Biology, French (both major and minor), Physics (both B.A. and B.S., Psychology B.S., Political Science (major and minor), International Comparative Studies, Spanish (major and minor). We also considered revisions to the Literature major which included a proposed name change. After meeting consulting with other Humanities departments and meeting with the Committee, the DUS (Mark Hansen) and Chair (Michael Hardt) withdrew the request to call the major "Global Humanities," and proposed the name "Global Cultural Studies." The committee approved this as well as the other proposed changes to this major

The Committee continued its regular review of certificate programs, and recommended to the Dean of Academic Affairs of Trinity College that the following Certificates be continued: Marine Science and Conservation Leadership, Latino/a Studies in the Global South and Genome Sciences and Policy. The Committee also reviewed and approved a revision to Marxism and Society. Very low enrollments and persistent difficulties finding faculty to teach gateways and capstones was a concern in discussion of both Latino/a Studies and Marxism and Society. While both have strong faculty backing, lack of student interest is a problem that both programs should continue to address.

The Committee also reviewed and provided feedback for the Duke Intense Global Venice proposal.

General Discussion

The Committee discussed six emergent issues over the course of the year. These included: 1. The role of Certificate Programs and sustainability concerns (with Dean Baker); 2. Duke Ideas and other curriculum innovation coming out of Office of Vice Provost for Interdisciplinary Studies (with Susan Roth) 3. A new proposal for merit designations or scholars programs in applied fields like Civic Engagement and Entrepreneurship (with Lee Baker and Eric Mlyn) 4. Best practices for curriculum review (Suzanne Shanahan and Inge Walther met with ECASC to discuss this further) 5. Strategic vision of undergraduate education at Duke (with Peter Lange); Best approaches to reviewing new cluster programs.

Challenges

A core challenge for the Curriculum Committee moving forward is the increasingly diffuse nature of curriculum innovation at Duke and finding the best and most efficient mechanisms to provide constructive feedback. We recognize there are apt to be a flurry of new programs to review next year so ensuring that innovation is consistent with A&S strategic priorities and structures is critical. We hope to discuss A&S priorities in the fall with Deans Patton and Baker.

Committee Membership

Faculty

Suzanne Shanahan, Chair (2011-2014)
Steffan Bass (2011-2014)
Scott DiMarchi (2008 – 2013)
Leslie Digby (2010 – 2013)
Deborah Jensen (2011 – 2014)
Bill Seaman (2009 – 2013)

Department

Sociology
Physics
Political Science
Evolutionary Anth.
Romance Studies
Visual Studies

Division

At large
Natural Sciences
Natural Sciences
Social Sciences
Humanities
Humanities

Ex Officio

Ingeborg Walther
Bruce Cunningham
N/A

Office/Organization

Trinity College Dean's Office
Registrar
Duke Student Government