

1 Dec 2009

Minutes CALS Curric Comm Revision meeting

Attendance: Stier, Howell, Kurtz, Bednarek, Paustian, Bohnoff, Scheufele, Eidi, Gillian-Daniel, Pfatteicher,

Call to order

Minutes approved from 10 November 2009

Sarah gave update about proposal reception by CALS chairs, L&S, and some depts. that have met. People like simplicity. L&S thinks some students will go to CALS but they're OK with that. Minor discussion on use of "waiver", "exemption". L&S deans have no problem w CALS offering a BS degree. MFA by L&S and MFA by Human Ecology are example of same degree w diff't reqrts

Dept chairs not have lot of comments at this point.

Discussed handout of latest BS degree mock-up

Indiv depts. have or are being met w by Sarah, Bob, or John, primarily w chair of curric committee.

Robin talked w Micro dept—mostly fine w proposal. Comments: noted Physics wouldn't be a college reqrt. Majors can still require it. Courses that satisfy QRA, QRB would be known up front for students required to take classes like Calculus.

Sarah indicated L&S discussing allowing students to get credit for Chem 108 as well as 103 + 104

LA dept: Their take on it is to reduce total number of credits, then discuss the disbursement (e.g., 3x40) later; its important to focus on flexibility first. Want a minimum number placed on number of electives (e.g., 30) and 30 Gen Ed. Allow each dept to determine the amount of major and elective credits. Which Gen Ed credits to eliminate? None really, but is it sensible to require 5 credits in Biology then allow the dept to identify the other 5 credits either in Biology or something else.

Why require intro to CALS? Campus and national data show intro course to college, academic fields of study available, small group contact w/ peers and faculty enhance retention, on-time graduation, and higher GPA. Discussion if such a requirement should be broadened, as other courses on campus address this need.

Chemistry requirement discussed, wondering if some depts. might not want chemistry. LA likes flexibility, old/current curriculum was too prescribed e.g., econ requirement.

Question: What did depts. say about min credits in a major? Sarah said not really come up, she's mostly talked with Nat Sci depts. which is the most constrained. Gen and Biochem have the most, at 60 cr in major and Micro is at 50. BSE and LA special degrees are greater, but not affected as they are other degree programs.

Bohnoff pointed out that 40 cr in Gen Ed would help transfers from other colleges into CALS.

Sarah: we can really only reduce chemistry and biology requirements in the Gen Ed section.

Bohnoff: Suggest 40 Gen Ed, 50 major, 30 elective

Discussion about whether major credits should come from Gen Ed (Biol, Chem) or from electives.

Robin: a faculty member in Biochem dept felt strongly physics should be required (spouse is physics prof)

Sarah: What should it mean for a student to graduate from CALS? This is why Biol and Chem are currently in GenEd/CALS reqts as she sees them as Life Sciences.

LSC agrees with focus on Life Sciences credits, distinguishes them from L&S Comm.

Discussion on Agricultural vs Life Sciences focus. Are we moving towards discussion of science issues as social issues?

Need grounding in Biol and Chem in order to understand those issues (esp organic chem.). BSE is OK with no physics requirement (they have it in their major). Sarah: Chem can serve as intro to physical sciences.

We should be thinking of skills students will need, both science and otherwise. Need for flexibility. General consensus that the layout of GenEd (e.g., 10 cr Biology and some Chem) is the bare minimum now so OK.

Should we ask depts. what they'll require?

Seeing these as either a piece of an intellectual mosaic or preparation for later courses is somewhat two different things. Currently, proposal is built as providing some fundamental basis for CALS students rather than preparing for specific courses.

Need enough rigor for a CALS/biology background. This sets a minimum bar while maintaining flexibility.

Why are specific courses listed for Biology and Chemistry? Discussion ensued, most students would take one of these sequences. Could say 10 cr biology coded as a "p", etc. Exists now to ensure strong grounding in biological sciences; Org chem. is only one that might trip up some students.

Point made that Biol 151 and 152 is a rehash of high school biology and students may be better served by taking an ecology course or something else

Discussed need to have intro biology in order to take higher level courses

Discussed current situation of social discussions regarding biology on campus now having lack of science basis

Sarah: Campus requires 4-6 cr of natural science, technically anything that's NOT biological or physical science, though we could allow such

Some persons uncomfortable with taking away the listed biology requirements, need to establish basic biology education.

Question: Can university requirements really exist, or if colleges-only have requirements (reqts).

Sarah-we can't do away w QRA, QRB, communication, etc. Gen Ed reqts were set up as compromise among colleges reqts and then adopted by univ. Howell would appreciate verification of these university reqts. Howell was on the Gen Ed committee and remembers it as each college adopting those reqts.

Discussed QRA and QRB. Suggest we have minimum reqts, then have suggested list of courses for particular majors.

Sarah wants to avoid potential for individual depts. to change their understanding of Gen Ed reqts

Discussion: why identify specific courses for biol/chem. but not humanities, etc. Answer: Many humanities, etc. don't require a specific background. Many upper level science courses require a specific lower level biology or chemistry course.

Should we specify the biol/chem. courses or not? Group is split. The ones that don't want specific reqts are OK with having recommended courses.

Quorum left at 1:15 pm (Howell, Paustian, Kurtz)

L&S: requires 5 cr natural sci (?) L&S reqrs 16 cr science for BS, 6 physical, 6 biology, 6 any science (B, P, N); natural incl math, econ, etc.

Bednarek: Split the biol and phys sci reqt for discussion purposes

Make sure we ask depts./town hall if specific courses should be required (we've asked committee to review the approved list of biological and physical sciences courses if they would all work)

Learning Outcomes:

Dietram: LSC will feel left out if we adopt those learning outcomes listed at top of proposed degree sheet.

Sarah: AACU developed the learning outcomes. As a campus those outcomes have been adopted. We can tweak those, as long as we retain the spirit of those requirements

Dietram: social dynamics are important

Add “Knowledge of human cultures, social dynamics, and the physical and natural world”

Sarah asked if people could look at Biological science and physical science guides and indicate if they feel comfortable with allowing any of those courses to fulfill the requirements.

Adjourn: 1:37 pm

Do we need a town meeting for the college?

Add degree change to Hort faculty mtg???

We need to send link for biology and physical sciences courses to committee

We will send out the “clean” set of reqts side by side with Sarah’s other draft w all of its advising recommendations

Sarah will talk w APC RE town meeting