

Minutes CALS Curriculum Committee

4 January 2011

250 Agricultural Hall

Present: Stier (Chair), Bednarek, Bohnhoff, Fadl, Hayslett, Jackson, Mitchell, Pelegri, Paustian, Pfatteicher, Berkelman

Called to order 12:02 pm

7 December 2010 minutes approved

Discussed capstone course review process.

What to do if deficiencies exist? If lack of activity by department, Dean Schaefer will discuss with department based on committee's review.

Acknowledge there are many ways capstone can be met, no single approach.

Discussed 399 and 699. If 399 used, it needs to be done towards/during senior year. Presentations should be built-in. Suggested that CALS curriculum committee outline method for 399 to be used as a capstone. For 699, group meetings with presentations, ethics discussions, etc. could be conducted. Soils department has a formal presentation and report requirement.

Returned to review process. Two approaches considered: 1) Ask departments how their capstones meet the criteria, and provide examples of good capstones. 2) Have committee review information available, return evaluations to departments. If considered sufficient, no further action. If deficient, a meeting should be scheduled with the department concurrent with or before the evaluation is provided to the department.

Concerns expressed about having departments justify as they are busy. Most departments seem to have adequate capstones and would be an unnecessary task for them. Group appeared to ultimately favor option 2. Cater the process to the department, e.g., "Here's what it looks like your capstone does, can we work with you to help fulfill the requirements?" Suggested that departments be allowed to respond to evaluations and provide revisions. All seemed to agree. Ultimately UP&S would like to have a short statement about each capstone regarding its sufficiency.

Discussed if departments are knowledgeable about the capstone characteristics. These were sent out to department chairs on 27 October with the initial request, and resent to department contacts with second request in December.

Question asked about ways to enforce compliance. Ultimately, UP&S deans have to sign off on students' graduation requests and would have to refuse graduation if capstones aren't met. Departments unable to develop/teach a capstone may be assigned MIU TA's; other options also exist.

Reviewed capstones for wildlife ecology (not forestry), dietetics, BSE, and microbiology. All seemed sufficient.

Motion to adjourn by Bohnhoff; 2nd by Mitchell.

Adjournment 1:30 pm