

CALS Curriculum Review Committee Meeting Minutes
6 October 2009

Present: Stier, Bednarek, Bohnhoff, Culbertson, Grummer, Howell, Kurtz, Scheufele, Pfatteicher

Irwin Goldman joined us for 1 hr

Discussed need to do something about current curricula.

Curriculum sheets are very messy issue. 74 possible degree combinations, which require change to all documents whenever one dept. changes one item. Unable to provide adequate oversight of such a vast amount of material. Complexity results in current curriculum sheets not being ready until after SOAR, and potentially allows some students to graduate w/out necessarily completing all requirements. Over time, a divergence of requirements among departments within a degree has occurred, creating these problems and problems for interdepartmental transfers w/in a degree program.

Discussed possible CALS-wide B.S. degree (plus specialized programs, e.g., dietetics, LA, etc.)

- Degree requirements would decrease, increase student course flexibility/options (major requirements would not change)
- Less complex advising, less confusing message to the public and potential students
- Allows better focus on the major, not the degree (employers don't understand e.g., a Bachelor-ASP).
- Could have B.S. and B.A. in some depts. (e.g., LA; LSC wants only B.S. to distinguish selves from L&S communications)

L&S has 2,000 undecided students ea. Fall-Sanderfur OK with some going to CALS

20 yrs ago we had an all-faculty vote to accept the current curriculum structure, would we have to do it again? Not necessarily, APC may be able to substitute as its an elected body

(Side-bar: *Need buy-in from all depts.—likely need list of adv and disadv. So members can visit depts., perhaps once in Dec and again in Feb, to get feedback)

Issues for the college requirements

- Require Econ for all majors? Allow a business course to substitute for Econ?
- Chemistry and math requirements?
- Freshman seminar? (seems to help GPA, student retention, etc.)
- International studies requirement?

Question: How are other univ. structured? At our website, it's impossible to tell how our degree programs are structured

Discussion about number of credits required. Campus only requires Gen Ed courses, doesn't specify how many credits/courses needed to meet a college's requirements. Maybe it's OK to look like L&S from a degree standpoint, as major requirements will be different. CALS has slightly higher credit reqts than other colleges.

How would returning students be handled? Grandfathered-in as long as time lag not too excessive

Discussion on if this would be a cosmetic or a substantive change. What will our future students need?
Even a cosmetic change is substantive—makes it easier for students to understand their degree and explain it to parents

Discussed need for it to be marketable, navigable, and provide dept. autonomy. Set a target date, not a deadline

Discussed possible motions

Sarah has 4 principles the committee had identified last year and will share those w/ us

College requirements should focus on Biological Sciences

Question: What happened to 1 degree for each major?

Discussed if Gen Ed were the only common requirements (i.e., no college reqts), then transfer students would have more difficulty between depts..

Discussed if we want to resurrect the Undecided option. Some liked the idea.

Motion (Bohnoff): Move we undertake a curriculum reform with the following objectives: make it navigable and marketable, transparent, easy to understand, flexible (so students can transfer between depts.), and with the goal of developing a proposal to present to CALS by spring 2010. Seconded by Culbertson.

Discussed what's importance of college degree—what would be the college requirements? Why would a student choose CALS instead of L&S? What's college theme-biological sciences, life sciences?

- Some depts. (e.g., LSC, BSE) need the college identity
- Only 1 decision really to make---B.S. CALS or B.S. in each dept.
- 1 degree would be more straightforward than 20 degrees.
- Discussed taking this to depts.. Needs to answer what will be dividing line between college and major requirements.

Motion passed unanimously

Meeting adjourned 1:30 pm