

Curriculum Committee 2022-2023 Annual Report

“This committee reviews curricular matters, especially individual course proposals and major and minor requirements, including the implementation of policies concerning allcollege requirements. The committee may also consider curriculum questions brought before it by the faculty, students, and administration, and general recommendations concerning immediate and long-range curricular matters.”

https://www.skidmore.edu/curriculum_committee/index.php

Faculty Membership:

Christopher G. Vecsey, Chair (and upcoming Chair) (Neuroscience)

Kate Graney (Political Science)

Minita Sanghvi (Management and Business)

Jessica Somerville-Braun (Education Studies) – fall semester replacement

Adam Tinkle (MDOCS) – spring semester replacement

Administration:

Michael Arnush, Associate Dean of the Faculty (ADOF; ex officio)

Dave DeConno, Registrar (ex officio)

Sharon Clemmey, Registrar’s Office (ex officio)

Shannon Melvin, Registrar’s Office (ex officio)

Student Representative:

Jane Schmucki ('25), spring semester only.

Summary of Regular Business

- The committee met 9 times during the Fall semester and 13 times during the Spring semester.
- The committee was unable to include the required two student representatives during the Fall 2022 semester. We were grateful that one student representative, Jane Schmucki, was able to join us during the spring 2023 semester. Jane will continue to be our representative for the 2023-24 year.
- The committee followed the process for reviewing procedures implemented during the 2020-2021 academic year. In this process, two teams of three committee members (ideally two faculty members and one student representative) assess a set of proposals, and the Chair and the ADOF review each proposal. Routine Revisions were reviewed by the CC Chair and the ADOF with input as needed from the Registrar’s Office, but did not require full CC review. This system allowed the committee to work efficiently, leaving a minimal backlog of proposals submitted late during the Spring semester for the incoming committee.

CC accomplished a lot this year, reviewing 71 proposals in the fall and 89 in the spring, for a total of 160!

Throughout the year, we worked hand-in-hand with members of the Registrar's Office, whose historical context and knowledge of the inner workings of the Catalog were always invaluable.

We worked with the Dean's Office through our weekly discussions of proposals with Michael Arnush, who provided helpful context about the resource implications of both course proposals and revisions to majors and minors. The Dean's Office also worked with us as we developed a motion (now passed!) to adjust CC membership, dropping 1 faculty member, 1 student member, and re-establishing a single DOF voting member (the Associate DOF for SAA).

The same motion to adjust CC's membership was also developed with helpful input from the members of FEC, and after it was passed we worked with FEC to make plans for how to implement our new membership during the upcoming year.

We worked with CEPP on a variety of occasions, including providing feedback on their motion (now passed!) to require faculty to provide syllabi. CEPP was very gracious about incorporating CC's feedback in the final version of the motion that they brought to the rest of faculty. We also received helpful feedback from CEPP when considering proposals to eliminate two different majors (both now passed!) and a proposal to create a new minor in Entrepreneurship (also now passed!).

We also worked with the Quantitative Reasoning team to review course proposals with questions related to their placement within the QR progression.

We also communicated with Eric Morser as the Director of the Bridge Experience to discuss how to evaluate the Practice/Application component of Bridge course proposals.

Lastly, we worked with Rachel Roe-Dale as the Director of the First-Year Experience as well as others in the OCSE office as we reviewed a set of proposals of courses to be offered this fall in London through a new provider.

Through our reviews this year, all departments/programs now have an approved Senior Coda Experience!

The following table shows the breakdown of courses and changes requested and approved by the committee:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| New Bridge Experience Courses | 4 |
| New CODA Experience Courses | 2 |
| Conversion to CODA | 8 |
| New Scribner Seminar Courses | 6 |
| New Firstyear London Program Courses | 7 |
| Regular New Courses | 35 |
| Substantial Revisions of a Course | 12 |
| Revisions to Major | 15 |
| Deletions of Majors | 2 |
| Creation of New Minor | 1 |
| Total CC-Reviewed Proposals | 92 |
| Routine Revision | 68 |
| Total Courses Reviewed | 160 |

Notes on the Needs of the New General Education Curriculum:

- Today, the college catalog includes a total of 90 Bridge Experience courses. The estimated number of BE courses needed to reasonably offer the course during a standard academic year is 97, so it will still be important to continue to develop new Bridge courses.
- All departments now have an approved CODA course! However, it will be important to make sure that CODA experiences are offered in such a way that students can effectively complete them, even if they are graduating early, e.g.

Notes for the Upcoming Year:

- In 2023-24, the Associate Dean of the Faculty for Student Academic Affairs (who will be Corey Freeman-Gallant) and the Special Assistant to the Dean of the Faculty (Óscar-Pérez-Hernandez in collaboration with Curriculum Committee (CC) will be performing a review of all courses containing a flexible fourth credit-hour. This review should take place every 5 years, but did not take place during the last cycle, so this process is overdue. I have already e-mailed Chairs and Program Directors to inform them of this upcoming process.
- Over the summer, we will be switching from the current *Curriculog* system for curricular proposals to CourseLeaf's CIM system. *Curriculog* is already not accepting new proposals, so faculty should wait until the CIM system is operational before submitting new proposals. We anticipate that the new system should be more straightforward and user-friendly, especially for making small revisions to existing courses.
- Due to the Motion that CC put forward and that was approved this past Spring semester, voting membership going forward will consist of only 4 faculty members (including the Chair), each from a different division, the Associate Dean of the Faculty for Student Academic Affairs, and 1 student representative. This means that our new incoming member will be Eric Morser. Tom O'Connell, who was elected to join CC as well, will wait and join the committee in 2024-25, when he will replace me (Chris Vecsey) as the Natural Sciences representative.

Next Academic Year 2023-2024 Curriculum Committee Voting Members

Natural Sciences: Christopher G. Vecsey (Neuroscience), Chair

Humanities: Maggie Greaves (English)

Pre-Professional: Minita Sanghvi (Management and Business)

Social Sciences: Eric Morser (History)

Corey Freeman-Gallant (ADOF Student Academic Affairs)

Jane Schmucki ('25 – student rep)

Respectfully submitted,
Christopher G. Vecsey
Associate Professor of Neuroscience
Curriculum Committee, Chair