

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT 2007-2008

2007-2008 Membership

Michael Steven Marx, English, chair
Laurie Baker, Dean of Studies Representative
Evangelos Courpos, Art
Michael Ennis-McMillan, Dean of Studies
Michelle Frey, Chemistry
Tim Harper, Management and Business
Anita Harris, Registrar's Office Representative
Mimi Hellman, Art History (Fall 07)
Ann Henderson, Registrar
Mark Hofmann, Associate Dean of the Faculty
Sadie Kitechen '10, Student Representative
Michael Mudrovic, Foreign Languages and Literatures
Flagg Taylor, Government (Spring 08)

The Curriculum Committee met on a weekly basis throughout the 2007-2008 academic year, including special meetings during Spring Break to review proposals for new Scribner Seminars. During the year, the Committee reviewed a total of 175 proposals, which included 45 proposals for new courses, approximately 100 requests for "routine changes" in existing courses (including changes in title, credits, and prerequisites), and approximately 25 requests for revisions to academic majors and minors. Significant among these proposals are the fully revised requirements for the Environmental Studies major, changes in the Biology major, and revisions (still in process) for the International Affairs major. In addition, during the spring 08 semester, the Curriculum Committee reviewed approximately 20 proposals for new fall 2008 Scribner Seminars.

Several issues related to the curriculum were also discussed during the Curriculum Committee meetings, although no resolutions were reached.

- The question of enrollment caps for 100-, 200-. and 300- level courses was revisited many times, especially as departments are creating "gateway to the major" courses for which they would like to keep enrollments small and writing-intensive courses. It was noted that the current enrollment caps are presented as guidelines recommended by a joint CEPP-Curriculum Committee document from March 2000 and may be worthwhile updating these maximums.

- The process of reviewing and approving new Scribner Seminars also came under question this year as this academic year was the first that new Seminars were not first vetted by a review committee (made up of the FYE Director and representatives from CEPP and the Curriculum Committee). The Curriculum Committee offered recommendations to the FYE Director about how the submission dates for these courses could be changed and about the merits of reinstating a preliminary review of these new courses prior to their submission to the Curriculum Committee.
- The Curriculum Committee participated in discussions for new travel seminars and reviewed draft proposals for streamlining the submission process for travel seminars.
- The Chair of CEPP contacted the Curriculum Committee to inquire about restarting the process of sharing minutes between these two major college committees.

For the 2008-2009 academic year, the membership of the Curriculum Committee is as follows:

Tim Harper, Management and Business, Chair
 Laurie Baker, Dean of Studies Representative
 Youngon Choi, Psychology
 Michael Ennis-McMillan, Dean of Studies
 Pat Fehling, Exercise Science
 Ben Givan, Music
 Mimi Hellman, Art History
 Anita Harris, Registrar's Office Representative
 Ann Henderson, Registrar
 Michael Mudrovic, Foreign Languages and Literatures (F 08)
 Paty Rubio, Associate Dean of the Faculty
 Muriel Poston, Dean of the Faculty
 Alison Schultz, Student Representative
 Marc-Andre Wiesmann, Foreign Languages and Literatures (S 09)

In closing, I would like to thank the members of the Curriculum Committee for all of their diligent work over the past academic year. Their careful attention to the details of each proposal we reviewed and their oversight of the broader curriculum assured growth and well being of the Skidmore Curriculum. I would also like to thank Jill Jones, from the Office of the Dean of Studies, for all the invaluable support she provided throughout the year.

For more information regarding the Curriculum Committee,
guidelines, proposal forms and submission deadlines, please
refer to the CC website at
http://cms.skidmore.edu/curriculum_committee/