

Curriculum Committee Annual Report 2008-2009

2008-2009 Membership

Timothy Harper, Management & Business, Chair

Ben Given, Music

Michael Ennis-McMillan, Dean of Studies (non-voting)

Youngon Choi, Psychology (resigned in Spring, 2009)

Patricia Fehling, Exercise Science

Marc-Andre Wiesmann, Foreign Languages & Literatures, (Spring '09)

Mimi Hellman, Art & Art History

Ann Henderson, Registrar & Director of Institutional Research (non-voting)

Patricia Rubio, Associate Dean of the Faculty

Michael Mudrovic, Foreign Languages & Literatures (Fall '08)

Laurie Baker, Dean of Studies rep

Anita Harris, Registrar's Office rep

Allison Schultz '09, student rep

The Curriculum Committee met on a weekly basis throughout the 2008-2009 academic year, including special meetings during Winter Break. During the year, the Curriculum Committee reviewed a total of approximately 167 proposals, which included 57 proposals for new courses; 27 proposal requests for revisions to academic majors and minors; 74 requests for "routine changes" in existing courses (including changes in title, credits and prerequisites; and the review of approximately 16 Scribner Seminar proposals). Significant among these proposals were the writing in the major requirements for the following academic departments: History; Government; and Foreign Language and Literatures; a major revision of the Theater Department curriculum; a revised description of the International Affairs major and minor; and the elimination of several interdepartmental majors.

The Curriculum Committee considered what might be considered several "curricular" issues during this academic year. Special issues included:

- 1) Writing Requirement in the Major. The Curriculum Committee Chair charged the Writing Initiative subcommittee with creating a set of guidelines for departments during the development of the writing in the major requirements. The subcommittee chaired by Michael Ennis-McMillan, Dean of Studies worked effectively in devising a set of guidelines that informed departments during the development process and also guided the committee's deliberations during the review process. The guidelines were communicated and distributed to Department Chairs and Program Directors. The Curriculum Committee engaged the Teagle Review Group several times while working on this issue. The majority of writing requirement proposals are expected to be submitted in Fall, 2009.
- 2) FEC Committee Structure Review. The Curriculum Committee Chair, on behalf of the committee, submitted a report of FEC regarding the impact of reducing the

number of faculty serving on the committee. Ultimately, the committee concluded that faculty representation should only be reduced to the extent that faculty will hold the balance of power in discussions, deliberations and voting vis a vis Administrators.

- 3) Enrollment Caps. The Curriculum Committee Chair charged the Enrollment Cap subcommittee, composed of CEPP and CC members and chaired by Bob Turner, to revisit the joint CEPP-Curriculum Committee guidelines developed in March, 2000 given the current contextual factors operating now at Skidmore College. The enrollment cap issue will likely be major issue facing the Administration, departments and faculty in academic year 2009-2010 and beyond. The enrollment cap subcommittee is scheduled to provide an initial report in Summer, 2009.
- 4) Credit Hours for Film Viewing. The Curriculum Committee developed a set of informal guidelines to assist in the committee's review of proposals requesting additional hours of credit for film viewing. The informal guidelines were forwarded to Department Chairs and Program Directors. The committee had the opportunity to apply the guidelines in the review of one proposal in the spring semester. The instructor and committee found the guidelines highly useful in reaching consensus during the proposal review and approval process.
- 5) Travel Seminars. On several occasions the committee discussed nuances related to travel seminars including their designation as a fulfillment of all college requirements, enrollment cap size and whether or not all credits (based on the two different segments) would count toward a respective major.

Others: Internship variable credits; PA Course Curriculum and Design; Suspension of the Law and Society Program; Catalog editing process including a meeting with Dan Forbush and Staff; and the motion to eliminate the UWW program including meetings with Jeff Segrave and Dan Nathan.

In closing, I thank the members of the Curriculum Committee for their masterful work over the past academic year. The committee supported my efforts to have stakeholders view the Curriculum Committee as a collaborative partner in the review and approval of proposals. 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/.

Regards,

Tim Harper
Curriculum Committee Chair, 2008-2009