

## **Curriculum Committee Annual Report 2015-2016**

### **Membership:**

#### Faculty:

Masako Inamoto, World Languages and Literatures  
Larry Jorgensen, Philosophy (in London, Fall 2015; chair, Spring 2016)  
Barbara Norelli, Library  
Monica Raveret Richter, Biology  
T.H. Reynolds, Health and Exercise Sciences (chair, Fall 2015; sabbatical leave, Spring 2016)  
Aiwu Zhao, Management and Business

#### Administration:

Sharon Clemmey (non-voting)  
David DeConno (non-voting)  
Corey Freeman-Gallant (non-voting)  
Crystal Moore  
Shannon Phillips (observer)

#### Student Representative:

Nicole Werner, '18

### **Meetings with the Full Committee:**

The Curriculum Committee met 11 times in the Fall Semester and 14 times in the Spring Semester, for a total of 25 meetings. Agenda items included:

- ⇒ 58 proposals for new courses, including 18 new Scribner Seminars.
- ⇒ 29 proposals for substantial revisions to existing courses.
- ⇒ Proposals for revisions to the major or minor for AM, AR, AS, CH, EC, ED, EN, ES, GE, IA, MB, MF, PS, WLL, and WLG.
- ⇒ Proposals for revisions to honors requirements in EN and PS.
- ⇒ A proposal to add a new major (Environmental Science).
- ⇒ A proposal to rename the Government major to Political Science.
- ⇒ A proposal from SGA to recommend Title IX language in all syllabi.

### **Significant Curricular Changes:**

Of the above proposals, the following items will result in significant changes to the curriculum within each of these majors:

- ⇒ Environmental Studies has changed their name to Environmental Studies and Sciences, and they requested that their dual tracks in the major (the Social and Cultural Perspectives track and the Environmental Science track) be divided into two distinct majors. The proposal was brought to the faculty floor, and the faculty approved the addition of a new Environmental Science major.
- ⇒ The English Department will be implementing substantial changes to their major, starting with students entering in the Fall 2017. The changes include a more robust requirement for a 200-level sequence of courses prior to advancing to 300-level work, the addition of diversity and historical period requirements, the addition of a research requirement at the junior level and a "Junior Profile."
- ⇒ The Educational Studies major will require a two-stage declaration process. Students who declare the major in their sophomore year will declare a non-certification major, which will signify a commitment to declaring the certification track in their junior year. In the fall of

their junior year, students will apply for the certification program. Admission to the certification major will be based on GPA, SAT/ACT scores, writing samples, interview, and instructor recommendations.

### **Significant Policy Work:**

The Curriculum Committee also addressed two major policy issues this year:

- ⇒ **Title IX:** The Student Government Association asked the Curriculum Committee to endorse and implement their resolution urging faculty to include Title IX language in all syllabi. The committee supports this recommendation and starting immediately will recommend Title IX language for any syllabus reviewed. The language recommended by the SGA is:

#### **Title IX Statement and Reporting Responsibilities**

*Skidmore College considers sexual and gender-based misconduct to be one of the most serious violations of the values and standards of the College. Unwelcome sexual contact of any form is a violation of students' personal integrity and their right to a safe environment and therefore violates Skidmore's values. Sexual and gender-based misconduct is also prohibited by federal regulations. Skidmore College faculty are committed to supporting our students and upholding gender equity laws as outlined by Title IX. If a student chooses to confide in a member of Skidmore's faculty or staff regarding an issue of sexual or gender-based misconduct, that faculty or staff member is obligated to tell Skidmore's Title IX Deputy Coordinator. The Title IX Deputy Coordinator will assist the student in connecting with all possible resources for support and reporting both on and off campus. Identities and details will be shared only with those who need to know to support the student and to address the situation through the college's processes. If the student wishes to confide in a confidential resource, The Counseling Center Staff, Health Services, and Victim Advocates are all options available.*

*More information can be found at <https://www.skidmore.edu/sqbm/> or by contacting the Title IX Deputy Coordinator.*

- ⇒ **Course Caps:** The Curriculum Committee is tasked with deciding (equitably and fairly) whether a proposed course is allowed an exemption from the standard course caps. In an effort to increase clarity and transparency about how these decisions are made, the committee produced guidelines for exceptions and added the guidelines to the Curriculum Committee Operating Code (which is available online for whomever wishes to read it). We did not intend to *create* policy; rather, we wanted to codify what we take to be existing practice. Of course, some courses may not fit neatly into the categories described, and the committee will continue to exercise its judgment in such cases.

### **Routine Matters:**

In addition to the work of the full committee, the routine-matters subcommittee (Corey Freeman-Gallant, David DeConno, and the Chair of CC) responded to many routine matters. These included the approval of four travel seminars and consideration of (so far) 12 courses from IES-Paris in support of the Skidmore Paris Program.

### **Conclusion:**

The Curriculum Committee has had a very busy year, and we are excited to have the opportunity to respond to the many excellent and innovative curricular ideas that are being implemented here at Skidmore!

Respectfully submitted,  
Larry M. Jorgensen (chair)  
27 May 2016

**Note:** The Curriculum Committee (CC) was chaired by T.H. Reynolds in Fall 2015 and by Larry Jorgensen in Spring 2016. This report was compiled by Larry Jorgensen, consulting T.H. Reynolds's notes from the Fall Semester.