

Curriculum Committee Annual Report 2016-2017

Membership:

Faculty:

Jeremy Day-O'Connell, Music (Spring 2017 replacement)
Xiaoshuo Hou, Sociology
Masako Inamoto, World Languages and Literatures
Larry Jorgensen, Philosophy (chair)
Barbara Norelli, Library (on leave Spring 2017)
Monica Raveret Richter, Biology

Administration:

Sharon Clemmey, Associate Registrar (non-voting)
David DeConno, Registrar (non-voting)
Corey Freeman-Gallant, Associate Dean of Faculty (Fall 2016, non-voting)
Crystal Moore, Associate Dean of the Faculty
Shannon Phillips, Assistant Registrar (observer)
Ron Seyb, Associate Dean of Faculty (Spring 2017, non-voting)

Student Representative:

Ke Wang, '17

Meetings with the Full Committee:

The Curriculum Committee met 10 times in the Fall Semester and 13 times in the Spring Semester, for a total of 23 meetings. Agenda items included:

- ⇒ 51 proposals for new courses
- ⇒ 22 proposals for substantial revisions to existing courses
- ⇒ 20 new or revised Scribner Seminars
- ⇒ 6 IdeaLab course proposals, plus 2 pop-up courses
- ⇒ 19 proposals for new Skidmore in Paris courses
- ⇒ Proposals for revisions to the major or minor for AH, AR, BI, CH, DA, EC, ED, EN, ESS, MB, RE, WLF, WLI

Significant Curricular Changes:

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

- ⇒ The Biology Department has made substantial changes to their major, including the introduction of several new courses to support the new major. The changes involve courses at all levels of their curriculum.
- ⇒ The Environmental Studies and Sciences program has made a series of changes to the Environmental Studies major, the Environmental Science major, and the Environmental Studies and Sciences minor, including the introduction of new courses to support the revisions.
- ⇒ The introduction of new IdeaLab courses has added new ways of conceiving of how we offer our courses. Included among these courses were two new "pop-up" courses that ran over the past two semesters.

Policy Work:

The Curriculum Committee has been asked to consider several proposals to establish *certificate programs* at Skidmore. We thought it best to work through the policy implications of certificate programs with CEPP prior to taking any action on these proposals. Since CEPP has (understandably!) been busy this year, the joint CC/CEPP conversation about certificate programs did not start until the end of the academic year. CC anticipates that this conversation will continue at the beginning of the Fall Semester.

Routine Matters:

In addition to the work of the full committee, the routine-matters subcommittee (Corey Freeman-Gallant in the Fall, Ron Seyb in the Spring, David DeConno, and the Chair of CC) responded to many routine matters. (Routine matters include deleting courses no longer being offered, minor changes to existing courses, changes to prerequisites, and the like.)

Curriculog:

This year, the Registrar's Office implemented Curriculog, a new software package to help manage curriculum changes. The software is an improvement on the Word-document system we used up until this year, which required a fair bit of file management by the Chair of the Committee to keep up with revisions to the proposals and to manage the approval process. Curriculog has greatly reduced the paper flow and has streamlined some of the communication between the Curriculum Committee, the Registrar's Office, and faculty proposing curriculum changes. Learning and implementing the new software has not been without its problems, but we hope that for the most part it has made the process easier for everyone.

Conclusion:

The numbers listed above show that Skidmore is actively renewing and re-envisioning its curriculum on all levels. The Curriculum Committee is privileged to see each of these changes in its full detail, and we can report that there are many innovative and exciting things going on in our classes, programs, and majors.

Faculty Members for 2017-2018 Curriculum Committee:

Xiaoshuo Hou, Sociology (chair)
Christopher Mann, Political Science
Michael Marx, English
Barbara Norelli, Library
Thomas O'Connell, Computer Science (one year replacement)

Respectfully submitted,
Larry M. Jorgensen (chair)
26 May 2017