

Curriculum Committee 2020-2021 Annual Report

Membership

Faculty:

- Corinne Moss-Racusin, Chair (Psychology)
- Sandra Goff (Economics)
- Kate Graney (Political Science)
- Maria Lander (World Languages and Literatures)
- Robert ParkeHarrison (Studio Art)

Administration:

- Michael Arnush, Associate Dean of the Faculty (ex officio)
- Dave Deconno, Registrar (ex officio)
- Sharon Clemmey, Registrar's Office (ex officio)
- Shannon Melvin, Registrar's Office (ex officio)

Student Representatives

- Amanda Gomez ('21)
- Katherine Eiger ('22), fall semester only

Committee Overview + Charge

The Curriculum Committee (CC) is tasked with reviewing curricular matters, especially individual course proposals (and revisions), and major and minor requirements, including the implementation of policies concerning all-college requirements. The committee also considers curriculum questions brought before it by the faculty, students, and administration, and general recommendations concerning immediate and long-range curricular matters.

Summary of Regular Business

Not surprisingly, this was an incredibly busy year for CC. Indeed, the committee met 15 times during the fall semester and 13 times during the spring semester, for a total of 28 meetings.

During this time, the committee approved:

- 47 proposals for new courses
- 27 proposals for substantial revisions to existing courses
- 25 proposals for routine revisions to existing courses
- 10 proposals for new Scribner seminars (with gratitude for productive collaboration with Amon Emeka, Director of the First Year Experience)
- 15 proposals for revisions to a major or minor

In addition, the committee reviewed a substantial number of proposals that are currently unresolved (awaiting revisions from faculty initiators).

Routine Matters

In addition to the work of the full committee, the routine-matters subcommittee (Associate Dean Michael Arnush, Registrar David DeConno, and Chair of CC Corinne Moss-Racusin) approved 25 “routine matters.” These included deleting courses no longer being offered, minor changes to existing courses, changes to prerequisites and course titles, etc.

Implementation of New General Education Curriculum

The 2020-2021 AY marked (among many other things) the inaugural year of the new General Education Curriculum. This year, CC was in the unique position of facilitating the operation of both the old and new GE curricula, because students are currently on both. Thus, it was necessary to review courses as meeting requirements under both curricula. More pressingly, the committee faced the critical work of reviewing (and ultimately approving) a sufficient number of Bridge Experience (BE) and Senior Coda courses so as to enable the functioning of the new GEC. In doing so, the CC worked closely and highly productively with Eric Morser, Director of the BE.

Of importance, CC has approved 63 BE courses, with the broader goal of ultimately having 100 approved BE courses on the books. This work will certainly continue next year. Further, Senior Coda courses have been approved for departments with rising majors on the new GEC. Proposals have been solicited from remaining departments, and CC anticipates prioritizing review of additional Coda and BE courses next year.

Policy + Additional Work

By necessity, CC focused most of its efforts on reviewing the high number of proposals received this year. In order to do so, it was necessary to overhaul the committee’s process for reviewing procedures, in order to streamline and speed the work of the committee. Consensus from returning and incoming committee members is that these changes were viewed as positive steps towards increasing efficiency, and are likely to be maintained during AY 2021-2022.

In addition to reviewing proposals, CC briefly discussed several additional policy and conceptual issues. Work on these matters will continue in the upcoming year, including:

- Revisions to CC operating code and website
- Revisions to workflow/course approval process (e.g., reviewing the necessity of requiring approval from department chairs for Scribner Seminars before courses can progress through Curriculog)
- Phasing out of Curriculog curriculum management software and adoption of Courseleaf over the next 2 years
- Revision of existing course proposal forms, and creation of new forms for BE and Coda courses

- Discussion of social justice/representation issues on syllabi, and role of CC in advising and supporting faculty in attempts to decolonize and update syllabi

Conclusion

CC worked efficiently, productively, and even jovially during an extremely challenging year. We were gratified to see the extent to which the faculty is embracing the new GEC, and look forward to continued and needed progress on that front. On a personal note, this report marks the end of my year chairing (and 3 years serving on) this committee. I wish to thank all of those who have served alongside me, as well as those who will constitute the committee in the future.

Faculty Members for 2021-2022 Curriculum Committee:

- Maria Lander, Chair (World Languages and Literatures)
- Sandra Goff (Economics)
- Kate Graney (Political Science)
- Minita Sanghvi (Management and Business)
- Chris Vecsey (Neuroscience)

Respectfully submitted,
Corinne Moss-Racusin (Chair)
June 16, 2021