

To: Arts and Sciences Senate
From: Judith Lochhead, Chair, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee
Re: 2004-2005 Annual Report
Date: September, 2005

I. General Information

The curriculum committee met 24 times during the 2004-2005 academic year. Committee members were: Judith Lochhead (music and chair of the committee), Robert Cerrato (marine sciences), Nancy Tomes (history), Catherine Marrone (sociology), Thomas Weinacht (physics & astronomy), Darlene Prowse (asian and asian american studies), Anthony Phillips (college of arts and sciences, ex officio member), Arlene Feldman (transfer office, ex officio member), Leslie Volpe, (registrar's office, ex officio member), Claire Green-Forde (undergraduate representative), Vanessa Dumont (undergraduate representative), and Kane Gillespie (college of arts and sciences, ex officio secretary). Ellen Lindquist also attended regularly as a guest, and later became the graduate student representative.

The Committee met with several guests, including Dean James Staros, Provost Robert McGrath, Prof. Fred Walter, Deputy Provost Mark Aronoff, Associate Provost Manuel London, and Associate Provost Joseph Auner. Other faculty members were also invited as guests when appropriate.

Routine matters are handled by the secretary and announced to the committee at each meeting. There were a number of routine matters chiefly involving deletion of courses and changes of course titles, descriptions, course combinations and/or prerequisites to bring them in line with current teaching in preparation for the new bulletin.

The Committee worked to publish the 2005-07 of the Undergraduate Bulletin, including an updated online version of the Bulletin. The secretary also serves as the editor of the Bulletin.

Members of the Committee served as representatives on four departmental self studies for the Departments of Music, Ecology and Evolution, Chemistry, and Sociology.

II. General Curricular Matters

General Education

Skill 4: attempts to determine the status of Skill 4 were made throughout the academic year; however, the status was still unclear by the end of the year.

GER Proposals: After a long wait, the University received communication regarding the outstanding course proposals. SUNY requested revisions or additional information for several proposals. Only a few proposals were denied outright. As a result of the communication from SUNY, the Committee secretary submitted revised and new proposals on June 28, 2005. The 76 proposals could be grouped into seven categories.

1. The SUNY Provost's Office notified us that three (3) courses were approved; however, they are not listed on the SUNY site. As a precaution, we resubmitted them.
2. We originally submitted 36 courses to the SUNY Provost's Office for review on 11/6/2003, but the proposals were questioned. We resubmitted them with revisions.
3. We originally submitted four (4) courses to the SUNY Provost's Office for review on 2/6/2004, but the proposals were questioned. We resubmitted them with revisions.
4. We originally submitted six (6) courses to the SUNY Provost's Office for review on various dates, and the proposals were questioned. We resubmitted them on 4/24/04, but again, the proposals were questioned. We resubmitted them again with revisions.
5. A request to correct a discrepancy at SUNY regarding the cross-listing and GER designation of AAS/HIS 340 and AAS/HIS 341
6. We also submitted a handful of course deletions (14) and title revisions (2).
7. We submitted nine (9) new proposals.

Campus Based Assessment of General Education

The Committee met with Associate Provost Manuel London to discuss the "SUNY Board of Trustees Resolution" regarding campus based assessment of General Education. London discussed this resolution and its potential effect on the CAS Curriculum. London also presented results from assessments done at SBU in Spring 2004.

The current impact on curriculum is small at this point. However, future assessments may result in different criteria for General Education Requirements; or assessment results may require revision of content for given courses to redirect towards a goal of achieving certain competencies.

College of Business

The College of Business requested representation on the Committee. However, later the COB chose membership with the CEAS CTPC.

The CEAS CTPC approved significant changes to the Business major, including the requirement that students enrolled in the Business major must declare and complete a minor. This may or may not have an impact on student demand for CAS courses in the future.

Undergraduate Colleges

Much of the committee's effort was dedicated to the review and approval of the curricular aspects regarding the Undergraduate Colleges. The Committee met with Dean James Staros, Provost Robert McGrath, Prof. Fred Walter, Deputy Provost Mark Aronoff, and Prof. Perry Goldstein in his role as Director of the Undergraduate College of Arts, Culture and Humanities. Although the Committee encouraged full implementation of the Colleges as an integral part of the student experience, it had concerns regarding assessment (see below), academic content, grading basis, final grade breakdown, mandatory status, repetition, and purview of the second semester undergraduate college seminar courses. In addition, the Committee had concerns regarding the consistency of the courses among the six different Undergraduate Colleges, the contact hours, attendance, and oversight of the seminars. The concerns were resolved through collaboration with the Provost's office in the construction of the "102 Undergraduate College Freshmen College Seminar Guidelines," which addressed each of the concerns. The Committee approved three new course proposals, GLS 102, HDV 102, and LDS 102. Revisions to the existing ACH 102 and SSO 102 were also approved, making the delivery of these five courses parallel to each other. The sixth course, ITS 102, was previously approved by the CEAS CTPC).

Assessment: the group agreed that assessment would be conducted similar to a departmental review. An initial assessment was suggested at the end of the Spring 2005 term, and a full assessment should be scheduled every two or three years. McGrath proposed that the Directors supply the CC with clear guidelines, indicate a clear structure, purpose and role(s) for the oversight committee, define a plan for an external review. The guidelines that were subsequently drafted by the Directors of the Colleges indicate that an evaluation will occur at the end of each Spring term.

Winter Session

Following an attempt from the Africana Studies in collaboration with Study Abroad to establish a winter program in Barbados, the Provost's Office began planning to launch a formal, campus-wide winter session. The Committee met with Associate Provost Joseph Auner and agreed that the creation of a Winter Session at Stony Brook would be a great opportunity to offer a unique, pedagogically sound program to compete with other campuses. However, the Committee was concerned that curricular guidelines should be established for the type of course that is appropriate to be offered in the shortened time period between the end of the Fall and beginning of the Spring semesters. For at least the first installation of the Winter Session, the Committee will review the syllabi for existing courses as well as proposals for any new courses. Although outside the Committee's purview, the members indicated that the quality of instruction should be maintained with the expectation that a large portion of winter offerings are likely to be taught by adjunct instructors.

Teacher Education / Combined Degree programs

The Committee recommended changes to and approved the undergraduate curricular elements of ten new combined degree programs leading either to a BA/MA, BA/MAT or BS/MAT:

Adolescence Education: English/English BA/MA

Adolescence Education: Social Studies / History BA/MA

Chemistry/Adolescence Education/Chemistry BS/MAT

Earth & Space Science/Adolescence Education: Earth Science BS/MAT

French Language & Literature/Adolescence Education: French BA/MAT

History/Adolescence Education: Social Studies BA/MAT

Italian Studies/Adolescence Education: Italian BA/MAT

Linguistics/English to Speakers of Other Languages BA/MA

Physics/Adolescence Education: Physics BS/MAT

Spanish Language & Literature/Adolescence Education: Spanish BA/MAT

Of these, all except the Adolescence Education: Social Studies / History BA/MA were approved by either the SPD or Graduate Councils (where appropriate), and were passed to the Provost for submission to Albany and SED.

As part of the effort to construct the program proposals, an exception was recommended by the Undergraduate Council to the University Senate regarding the policy that allows undergraduate students to count graduate course credit towards undergraduate degrees, as follows:

Stony Brook undergraduate degrees:

(a) require 120 credits

(b) allow students to count a maximum of six (6) graduate credits towards the undergraduate degree

Stony Brook combined bachelors/masters degrees:

(c) require a minimum of 138 credits

(d) allow students to count a maximum of fifteen (15) graduate credits towards the undergraduate portion of the degree

(e) require that students who exit the combined program before completion to satisfy requirements for the regular undergraduate degree (above, (a), (b)).

Students in the combined degree program will be advised in a timely fashion so that they may complete, if necessary, the regular undergraduate degree without having to take additional undergraduate courses. If a student is asked to leave the program based on unsatisfactory progress, the student will be informed with enough time for him or her to complete the undergraduate requirements with a maximum of six (6) graduate credits and a total of 120 credits.

III. Significant Curricular Changes by Department

Africana Studies

A new course, AFH 417 was approved for co-scheduling with a graduate English course, EGL 570

A proposal to offer an existing course as part of a winter study abroad program was rejected on the grounds that a winter session did not exist.

Anthropology

Two courses were renumbered from 300- to 200-level status, resulting in ANT 252 and ANT 270

A new course, ANT 369 was approved.

Art

Three new courses, ARH 330, ARS 205 and ARS 305, were approved

Changes to the major requirements were approved

Asian and Asian American Studies

A new course, AAS 350, was approved

A new combined course, AAS/POL 357-J was approved. The course will be administered by the AAS department.

For AAS programs CHI, JPN, and KOR, all 475 and 476 Teaching Practica courses were inactivated; their function has been replaced by the existing AAS 475, 476.

Undergraduate Biology

Subsequent to the addition of the two new Marine Science Majors, the Marine Track of the Biology major was discontinued.

Significant discussion was given to a proposal for a digital delivery model of BIO 358. Although the course was approved on an experimental basis for Fall 2005, the proposal raised many questions regarding digital lectures, including whether these types of lectures should be among the types of course offerings at the University. Such discussions are beyond the purview of the committee and would require formation of new policies. Such topics should be passed on to other faculty committees if digital lectures are to continue at the University. Of particular concern are (in no order):

(a) Instruction responsibilities of instructors who may eventually teach these types of courses. How will this type of course fit in with the University's workload policy? With UUP? With state policy? How will the implementation of this course affect faculty load?

(b) Will the Administration expect that virtual courses are an excuse not to provide proper physical facilities for large lectures of this size?

(c) Is the proposed new delivery method equitable to the existing lecture/recitation format currently in use for other courses? For example, are contact hours equivalent?

(d) The role of TA's in the classroom. TA's, especially undergraduate TA's, should not be the primary contact for other students. Should TAs and GAs be used to administer online recitations?

(e) The definition of film and video: since this course in some sense is being offered as a video, how would it or ones like it fit in with the policy on video? The video IS the course in some respect.

Multiple changes to both the Biology and Biochemistry majors were approved.

BIO 367, which was originally experimental, was resubmitted and approved as a regular offering.

Biomedical Engineering

Request to add DEC H to BME 304 was approved.

Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies

Changes to the department majors and/or minors were approved, including the major in Humanities

Ecology and Evolution

A new course, BIO 104-E How Science Works was approved.

Economics

The department requested that a prerequisite of “B or higher” be added to ECO 487 and ECO 488 due to high student demand and the resulting workload on faculty. The request was not approved.

Engineering Chemistry

Changes to the major were approved.

European Language and Literature

Changes in credit requirements for minors in Russian, French, German and Medieval studies were approved.

A new course, GER 313 was approved and added to the requirement for the German major

A new course, ITL 436, was approved.

The Committee received notification from SUNY that the major in European Studies was approved by SUNY in November 2004.

Geosciences

A new course, GEO 302 was approved for co-scheduling with a new graduate course, GEO 502.

Marine Sciences

The University acquired two undergraduate marine science majors from the now-dissolved Long Island University – Southampton College. As part of the two new majors –Marine Vertebrate Biology and Marine Sciences – the committee also approved four new MAR courses: MAR 349, MAR 370, MAR 371 and MAR 380. Subsequent to the addition of the new Majors, the Marine Track of the Biology major was discontinued.

Several courses were inactivated

The mutual exclusiveness of two courses was dissolved, MAR 336 and MAR 394, allowing students to take both of these courses for credit.

MSRC proposed to continue a program that was previously co-administered between Long Island University Southampton College and Smithtown High School prior to the dissolution of LIUSC. The proposal was determined to be outside the purview of the Committee and was forwarded to the Undergraduate Council.

Mathematics

A proposal to change the grading basis of MAT 475 (teaching practicum) was rejected on the grounds that doing so would create an inconsistency of grading bases between the other A/S teaching practica.

Music

A new course, MUS 105-G Music Cultures of the World was approved.

Political Science

A new combined course, AAS/POL 357-J was approved. The course will be administered by the AAS department.

Sociology

Changes to the requirements for the major in Sociology were approved

Physics and Astronomy

A revision to AST/PHY 277 was approved and added as a mandatory requirement for the majors in Physics and Astronomy.

Psychology

SSE 327 became PSY 327. A course previously administered as part of the Social Sciences Interdisciplinary major, SSI 327, was transferred to Psychology and renumbered as SSE 327 when SSI was discontinued previous to 2004-05. To allow the course to fit intuitively into the requirements for the Psychology major, the department requested that the course be renumbered again as PSY 327. The proposal was approved. All other aspects of the course remain the same, and it will continue to function as an integral requirement for the Secondary Teacher Education and TESOL programs in addition to the Psychology major.

Minor changes to the minor in Child and Family Studies were approved.

Women's Studies

A new track, Gender, Sexuality and Public Health, was approved within the major in Women's Studies
A request to reduce the number of acceptable courses for the major and minor was approved

Writing and Rhetoric

A new course, WRT 392 Mentoring Writers, was approved

Respectfully submitted,
Kane Gillespie