

Solano Community College

Academic Senate CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Tuesday, April 12, 2005
1:30 p.m., Board Room

ROLL CALL

Chair Arie-Donch introduced Nancy Konecny, who will be serving on the Curriculum Committee for the 2005-06 academic year, replacing Robin from the Counseling Division.

Present: Robin Arie-Donch, Chair; Curtiss Brown, Glenn Burgess, Erin Farmer, Ruth Fuller; Floyd Hogue, Bob Myers, David Nourot, Brad Paschal; Kathy Rosengren, Robin Sytsma, Ann Willer, Judy Spencer, and Donna Vessels

Excused: Chris Duran and Kristine Mercado

Guests: Angela Apostol, Ted Harding, Nancy Konecny, and Carol Lilleberg

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

All matters listed under the Consent Items are considered routine and will be enacted by the approval of the agenda unless removed from the Consent Items by a Committee member.

It was moved by Ann Willer and seconded by Bob Myers to approve the agenda as presented.

The motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT ITEMS - (None)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes for the meeting held March 22, 2005, will be presented for approval at a future meeting.

NEW COURSES - (None)

COURSE MODIFICATIONS - (None)

PROGRAM MAJOR MODIFICATION - (None)

GE RECOMMENDATION REPORTS

On behalf of the GE Task Force, Ted Harding presented the GE Task Force recommendations (prepared April 10, 2005) to the Curriculum Committee. A hard copy of the recommendations are attached to the minutes.

The Task Force made interim recommendations, but not a full final set of proposals for the Curriculum Committee and the Academic Senate to consider. It quickly became apparent to the Task Force members upon reviewing the materials submitted and the recommendations from the divisions that more than two weeks was necessary for faculty members unfamiliar with general education issues and the implications for changes in process to provide meaningful suggestions.

Representatives from the majority of the divisions on campus stated that they did not see a need to make any changes in the current philosophy and criteria for general education. Because the majority indicated a desire to keep the philosophy as it is, the Task Force recommendation is that the philosophy and criteria for general education have no changes at the present time.

As far as the process is concerned for making decisions about various types of changes to general education, the Task Force noted there is considerably less clarity. Although the process for considering an individual course of inclusion in one of the existing categories of general education is straightforward and not difficult to follow, the procedure written down does not offer any systemic way to evaluate changes to the structure of the general education requirements. Deciding what the process should be before making changes in the structure of the College's general education needs more than the two-week period of time that was available to the Task Force. Their recommendation for the development of a process for making changes in the structure of general education is that a committee or task force be established to do a detailed, well-considered job and that it have an adequate timeline. The Task Force is looking for further direction from the Curriculum Committee.

Carol Lilleberg reviewed with the committee the position of the Counseling Division relative to recommended changes.

A copy of the current curriculum process was distributed to the committee members, which outlines the step-by-step process for implementation of new courses, new course modifications, new programs, new majors, and new major modifications. The consensus of the committee was that the divisions are well informed of these steps. Donna Vessels will provide a copy of the application for modification to the GE structure of the SCC graduation requirements, which is currently in effect, to the committee members.

The committee was once again polled relative to their division's current position on changing the general education philosophy and/or process:

Office of Academic Affairs – The current GE philosophy and process is sufficient.

Physical Education and Athletics – The current GE philosophy and process is sufficient.

Business and Computer Science – Comfortable with current GE philosophy. Would like to see the process a little more defined.

Math/Science – The current GE philosophy and process is sufficient but could use some fine-tuning.

Health Occupations – The current GE philosophy and process is sufficient.

Fine and Applied Arts/Behavioral Sciences – The current GE philosophy and process is sufficient.

Humanities – The current GE philosophy is sufficient. The process could possibly be fine-tuned, but they would not be interested in increasing the bureaucracy of what needs to be done.

Trade & Technical – The current GE philosophy and process is sufficient. Would like to see the process written down.

Library (non-voting) – The Library is very interested in the end result and feels it is interesting dialogue to keep having.

Management – Division Deans – The current GE philosophy and process is sufficient.

Student Services – Fine-tuning of process is recommended.

It was moved by Bob Myers and seconded by John Nogué that a copy of the current process used for modification to the GE structure be provided to the Task Force, and that a written proposal by the Task Force for specific steps for change in the process be provided to the Curriculum Committee for review at the next meeting and that a vote be taken at that time. The motion carried unanimously.

If there is not sufficient need to hold a Curriculum Committee meeting April 26, the Task Force recommendation will be sent to the committee electronically and a vote will be taken in May.

DISCUSSION/ELECTION OF NEW CURRICULUM CHAIR

Nominations were held for Curriculum Chair. Erin Farmer was elected as the new Chair of the Curriculum Committee for the 2005-06 academic year.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Chair Arie-Donch reported on the Statewide Academic Senate Plenary Session that she attended April 7-9. She advised the Academic Senate voted to increase the Math requirement to Intermediate Algebra or an equivalent math course. The Executive Council of the State Academic Senate will make their recommendation and forward it to the Board of Governors who will make the final decision. Any changes to be made will not occur for at least one-two years. Chair Arie-Donch will report on the various other breakout sessions at a future meeting.

REPORT FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Interim Vice President Floyd Hogue reported that he would like to see the Curriculum Committee and Academic Senate begin dialogue regarding grade inflation. The most commonly given grades at Solano College are as follows: 1st – A; 2nd - B; 3rd – C (or credit which represents a “C” or above). Interim Vice President Hogue stated that while this is not pervasive in every discipline, it is college wide. Integrity is a professional responsibility and grading of students is an integrity issue. The accreditation team will be looking closely at this concern as well. Dr. Hogue concluded that he is disturbed the College’s number one assigned grade is “A.”

OPEN DISCUSSION

There was no open discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the committee, it was moved by Bob Myers and seconded by Ann Willer to adjourn at 2:35 p.m., to meet again April 26, 2005, at 1:30 p.m., in the Board Room (626).

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Attachments: (2)

- General Education Task Force Recommendations – April 10, 2005
- Curriculum Process