

MEMORANDUM

To: Rachel Fernflores
Academic Senate, President

Date: March 22, 2012

Filename:

From: Andrew Schaffner
Academic Senate Curriculum Committee, Chair

Copies:

Subject: Quarterly Report, Winter 2012

The ASCC met seven of the ten weeks with most meetings lasting the full two hours.

CONTINUOUS REVIEW

As always continuous review items were given the highest priority on our agenda. The following is a summary of reviewed courses that were recommended for approval.

1. FPE 500: Individual Study
2. FPE 554: Forensic Fire Analysis
3. FPE 599: Design Thesis
4. BUS 301: Global Financial Institutions and Markets
5. ARCE 260: History of Structures
6. HIST 350: The Scientific Revolution

The following programs and courses were discussed, but a recommendation for approval is not yet possible. Further information from the proposers has been requested.

1. GRC 204: Introduction to Contemporary Print Management and Manufacturing
2. SPAN 307: Spanish and Latin American Film
3. MSBT: Master of Science in Business Technology

CURRICULAR REFRESH

During portions of several meetings we discussed strategies for refreshing curriculum to meet current guidelines. For example, older courses may not have stated learning objectives; and some courses are in the catalog, but haven't been taught in many years. While the catalog cycle should be a time to refresh such courses, this is not always done. At this time we have not arrived at an amenable solution, though we have discussed a rotating six year formal curricular refresh cycle as

well as cycles that could coincide with program review. We are not prepared to make any recommendations at this time.

CONCENTRATION RESOLUTION

We proposed a resolution to revise (and relax) the definition of concentration to permit courses outside the major to be included in concentrations (a practice that apparently has been taking place anyhow). The definition was first presented to the Senate on February 28 and approved on March 6.

GRADUATION WRITING REQUIREMENT

Portions of several meetings were dedicated to considering alternative means for graduate students to satisfy the GWR. Faculty and staff from the Writing Skills Center were invited to a meeting on March 1. The Writing Skills Center faculty/staff will be working on updating their GWR waiver criteria to allow for more ways for graduate students to demonstrate proficiency beyond the traditional writing course/exam.

FIELD TRIPS

The CSU is required to maintain lists of all courses with field trips (EO 1061). While in general this is a CSU liability issue and not necessarily a curricular issue, we agreed to include new language in future course proposal forms (for use after the 13-15 catalog review cycle). New forms will include a section asking faculty about possible field trips and relevant field trip information to aid in the maintenance of these CSU mandated lists. This information will also be added to course descriptions as it is valuable information for students when registering for courses.

COURSE MODS

Course mods typically undergo much less review than course proposals (often bypassing ASCC/Senate review). It is important that changes to courses do not substantially change the learning outcomes of the course. We made the following suggestions to the Registrar to aid in the determination of whether or not a course proposal rather than a course mod should be used.

- If there is a reduction of labs or activities, a new course proposal is needed.
- Course mods should demonstrate that the same learning objectives will be met after the modification.

We also will update the curriculum handbook with this information to help college level committees better vet course mods.

ONLINE TASK FORCE

The chair attended several meetings of the Senate ad hoc Online Task Force. Their recommendations are forthcoming.