
TO: Gary Laver,
Academic Senate, Chair

FROM: Brian Self,
Academic Senate Curriculum Committee, Chair

SUBJECT: Quarterly Report, Fall 2015

DATE: December 21, 2015

The ASCC physically met nine times during the Fall 2015 quarter.

During our first meeting, we discussed how we can help faculty and departments to submit better proposals. The new Curriculum Handbook website is greatly improved, and future improvements will include posting example course proposals. Checklists for reviewing (a) course proposals and (b) new programs and program edits were developed and posted on the website. Representatives from the Registrar's Office and the ASCC Chair made presentations to CENG and CAFES, and are planning visits to the remaining colleges in January.

Minors

Per academic policy, "A minor is defined as a coherent group of courses which stands alone and provides a student with broad knowledge of and competency in an area outside the student's major." Additionally, the same policy states, "A major and a minor may not be taken in the same degree program (e.g., a student majoring in history may not complete a minor in history, whereas a student majoring in crop science may complete a minor in plant protection)." The ASCC has identified several minors that appear to violate these policies. We are currently collecting information as well as preliminary feedback from departments to develop a resolution more clearly articulating these policies (e.g., perhaps only 12 units from a major could be double counted for a minor). The discussions really revolved around three primary areas: double-counting/overlap; minor distinct from major; purpose of a minor.

Undergraduate Certificates

Background:

Graduate certificates – Cal Poly name on it as certificate. Have to be admitted, meet standards (>50% matriculated)

Professional certificate – no Cal Poly name on it, extended ed, package of classes. Get a transcript but not an official degree. Can't use these courses for your degree.

Undergrad certificate – Separate stand alone event. But will have to do gainful employment tracking. Financial aid (CP doesn't give the financial aid to grad certificates).

Joint Certificate with a Business, eg. SAS statistical program. (not for credit, SAS presents the certificate not Cal Poly)

There were a lot of concerns raised, and many wondered what the motivation behind offering these was – particularly when there is the option of professional certificates. With the professional certificate there is no need for matriculation arrangements, no question about double counting, no mix of state and self-support classes. Some students could, for instance, take a number of courses for the certificate, and then want to claim these for technical electives (so how much do we want to double count?).

It was also mentioned that an undergraduate certificate would require gainful employment tracking (Rich Savage) – we would need to show that the certificate improved employability (but this may be tied to receiving financial aid while doing the certificate).

In general, the committee was not supportive of pursuing undergraduate certificates, and recommends that departments wanting to do this grant a professional certificate instead. A bit more clarification on the motivation behind doing undergraduate certificates might also help in our future discussions.

Off-cycle Approvals

In response to several inquiries the committee voted that:

- (a) minors could be approved off-cycle
- (b) concentrations could only be approved during a catalog cycle
- (c) Program Learning Objectives could be modified off-cycle

Bylaw Change Regarding Membership

12/21/2015 The ASCC unanimously voted on a resolution that would have an ex-officio member from both the Dean of Library Services and from IS – a resolution will be reviewed in January to include “the Vice Provost for Information Services/Chief Information Officer or designee, the Dean of Library Services or designee”.

Courses Reviewed

CHEM 454, Functional Polymeric Materials – on consent agenda for 1/19/15

Other approved courses are listed in the Table on the following page.

NEW APPROVED COURSES AND CURRICULUM

Course Number, Title	ASCC recommendation/ Other	Academic Senate (AS)	Term Effective
Accounting minor	Reviewed 10/8/15; additional information requested from the department. Recommended for approval 10/22/15.	Recommended for approval 11/17/15.	Winter 2016
AERO 529 Turbulence and Flow Control (4), 2 lectures, 2 laboratories	Reviewed; recommended for approval 5/21/15.	Recommended for approval 10/6/15.	Winter 2016
AERO 568 Aerodynamic Research and Development I (2), 2 laboratories	Reviewed 10/29/15; additional information requested from the department. Recommended for approval 11/3/15.	Recommended for approval 11/17/15.	Winter 2016
AERO 569 Aerodynamic Research and Development II (2), 2 laboratories	Reviewed 10/29/15; additional information requested from the department. Recommended for approval 11/3/15.	Recommended for approval 11/17/15.	Spring 2016
COMS 386 Communication, Media, and Politics (4), 4 lectures, GE D5	Recommended for approval by GE Governance Board 11/9/15. Recommended for approval by ASCC 11/12/15.	Recommended for approval 12/1/15.	Spring 2016
COMS 422 Rhetorics of Science, Technology, and Medicine (4), 4 lectures	Reviewed 10/22/15; additional information requested from the department. Recommended for approval 10/22/15.	Recommended for approval 11/17/15.	Spring 2016
CRP 425 Biking, Walking and the City (4), 4 lectures	Reviewed 4/16/15; additional information requested from the department. Reviewed 5/21/15; additional information requested from the department. Recommended for approval 5/26/15.	Recommended for approval 10/6/15.	Winter 2016
JOUR 220 Introduction to Radio Broadcasting (2), 2 lectures	Reviewed; recommended for approval 10/8/15.	Recommended for approval 10/27/15.	Spring 2016
NR 534 Ecosystem Modeling (3), 2 lectures, 1 laboratory (request to reactivate course)	Reviewed 10/1/15; additional information requested from the department. Recommended for approval 10/8/15.	Recommended for approval 10/27/15.	Winter 2016