

Arts and Sciences Council
10/27/10 Meeting Minutes
Olmsted—Drake Room

In attendance: Joe Lenz (dean), Dina Smith (chair), Megan Brown, Michael Chiang, Brad Crowell, John Fender, Michael Haedicke, Jeff Karnicky, Kayleigh Koester, Olga Lazareva, Mary McCarthy, Elizabeth Robertson, Eric Saylor, Mark Vitha; Christen Bain, Eduardo Garcia (visitors to discuss WLC course proposals).

The meeting was called to order by Council Chair Dina Smith at 3:30 pm.

Presentation of September Minutes

Joe Lenz motioned to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Michael Haedicke. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Report from Dean Joe Lenz

Dean Lenz called attention to Klaus Bartschat's second advisory poll on proposed revisions to the Drake Curriculum and encouraged participation in the revision process. He also referred to the forthcoming survey to be released by the College Diversity Committee and pointed out a disconnect in the National Survey for Student Engagement for the previous year in which Drake students indicated high support for diversity-related curricular activities but low support for diversity-related co-curricular activities.

Mary McCarthy asked how diversity was defined by the committee. Dean Lenz replied that a whole range of definitions was considered. Questions were raised (Mark Vitha, Michael Haedicke, Eric Saylor) over whether the members of Council should take steps to publicize the diversity survey to their respective constituencies, and it was pointed out that such efforts were already underway.

New Course Proposals

WLC 152: Arabic Film, Chinese Film, French Film, German Film, Japanese Film, Russian Film, Spanish Film

Mark Vitha moved to approve the proposal, and the motion was seconded by Eric Saylor.

Olga Lazareva pointed out that the catalog description did not seem to match the course titles. John Fender explained that the catalog description is intended to be generic to allow for the substitution of a different language for every different WLC 152 course.

Megan Brown expressed concern that the proposed course would create cross-curricular conflicts with existing cinema courses taught in other departments. Eduardo Garcia and Christen Bain pointed out that the courses focus on language acquisition rather than film theory. Other questions were raised regarding reading assignments (Michael Haedicke) and a catalog description that seemed to focus on film studies rather than the stated goal of language acquisition (Mark Vitha). Others were concern that the proposal: appears to be about film studies rather than language acquisition (Jeff Karnicky); attempts to cover too

much ground (Dina Smith); assumes a transparent relationship between film and national culture (Megan Brown). Eduardo Garcia replied that those who teach these courses from off campus are expected to conform to a uniform set of objectives, criteria, and expectations as set forth in the catalog description and elsewhere.

Mark Vitha, Eric Saylor, and Michael Haedicke commented that it would be useful to have separate descriptions for each separate language course and that the generic description in the proposal may be too confusing and does not adequately describe each course as it is actually taught. Eduardo Garcia pointed out that all sections of WLC 152 share a common set of learning outcomes, rubrics, and learning criteria. More discussion ensued, with some suggesting that: the rubrics should be included in the proposal (Eric Saylor); the catalog description should make clear the class is not a film studies course (Elizabeth Robertson, Michael Haedicke, and Mary McCarthy); the readings listed may be outdated and that coordination between others who teach cinema courses and WLC may be needed (Dina Smith). Elizabeth Robertson commented that more clarification is needed.

The proposal was not approved by vote, with Elizabeth Robertson abstaining.

WLC 82: The Study Abroad Experience III

Eric Saylor motioned to approve the proposal, and was seconded by Mark Vitha.

Mary McCarthy commented that the proposal looked similar to a previous class that had come before the Curriculum Committee while she was a member. John Fender replied that one key difference is the requirement of a paper written in the target language, which had not previously been mandatory. Questions were raised (Michael Haedicke, Elizabeth Robertson) about the inclusion of disciplinary content other than language acquisition that implied a disciplinary expertise. Elizabeth Robertson suggested a thorough overhaul of the proposal while Mark Vitha commented that the proposal did not clearly indicate whether its focus was on language or an academic discipline. Some expressed confusion (Olga Lazareva) about what is specifically being done in the course and suggested clarifying those goals (Megan Brown) while others pointed out that this resembled the previous discussion about WLC 152 (Jeff Karnicky). Dina Smith commented that the discussion required the presence of Marc Cadd, while Mark Vitha urged specific goals to be included. Elizabeth Robertson expressed the sentiment that WLC's goals as a department had not been made clear.

The proposal was not approved by vote, with Elizabeth Robertson and Eric Saylor abstaining.

WLC 150: Topics

Jeff Karnicky moved to approve WLC 150, and was seconded by Mark Vitha. The proposal was approved unanimously by vote.

WLC 151: National Identity in a Transnational Age

Mark Vitha motioned to approve WLC 151, and Brad Crowell seconded the motion.

Mary McCarthy and Megan Brown suggested that the same concerns about WLC 150 applied to WLC 151 while Michael Haedicke pointed out that some goals of the course appeared to be

appropriate to its intended purpose. Michael Chiang commented that while the WLC's role may not have been made clear to the council, as the Department World Languages and Cultures, its purpose is not solely language acquisition. Mark Vitha expressed concern that the course goals are both too broad and detailed to be capable of being adequately addressed in one semester.

The proposal was not approved by vote, with Olga Lazareva and Elizabeth Robertson abstaining.

Bio 64: Museum Curation, ENSP 27: Environmental Hazards, POLS 102: The Washington Center

A motion to consider and approve all three proposals as a bundle was made and seconded.

Michael Haedicke asked how often Bio 64 could be taken for credit, and Olga Lazareva replied that only 3 units would count toward the major.

Mark Vitha asked whether the 12-credit Washington Center course proposal might not constitute a heavy load that would squeeze out other classes. Dean Lenz replied that POLS 102 is comparable to the student teaching semester required of education majors. Michael Haedicke expressed hope that credits earned in POLS 102 could be applied to the major for students in other departments.

The proposal was approved unanimously by vote.

Program and Course Changes

Mark Vitha asked what is being changed in WLC 148 and WLC 160. Dean Lenz responded that changes had been made to allow graduate credit and to drop a prerequisite.

Mark Vitha moved to approve all proposals listed under Program and Course Changes and was seconded by Michael Haedicke.

The proposal was approved unanimously by vote.

Old Business

Dina Smith announced that Cabinet had proposed creating a provisional agenda for Council whereby proposals were automatically approved unless specifically contested.

Adjournment

The motion to adjourn was seconded and approved unanimously by vote.

Recorded by Michael Chiang