

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

Minutes #13 approved (2005-2006 Undergraduate Catalog)
March 30, 2005

Members Present: Bassoppo-Moyo, Buckley, Canabal, Craig, Ferrence, Kossman, Morenus, Quane, Ryburn, Stier, Trefzger, Zintambila

Members Absent: Al-Bataineh, Brown, Jayaswal, Shane, Van der Hoven

Guests Present: James Reid, Academic Affairs Committee

1. Trefzger convened the meeting at 3:07 p.m.

2. **DISCUSSION: Distance Education Report at Academic Senate and Mennonite School of Nursing Concerns**

Jim Reid, Academic Affairs Committee chairperson was present to review the Distance Education document that AAF sent to the Academic Senate February, 2005. The document asks the Senate to adopt recommendations from the Report of the University Curriculum Committee's Subcommittee on Distance Education (May 2001) as revised by AAF. MCN sent a letter to Academic Senate with their concerns about AAF's revisions to the report. Each UCC member had received a copy of the MCN letter, AAF's recommendations and the original report before this meeting so they could familiarize themselves with the information for discussion today.

The following discussion took place:

- Reid said that Gaylen Crow of Extended University, who had been on the original distance education subcommittee, was instrumental in assisting the AAF in understanding the issues in the report and offered a revised philosophy. Reid distributed the "Distance Education Philosophy" revised version to the committee. The AAF likes the new philosophy and suggests adopting it.

The development and maintenance of distance education courses at Illinois State University is the result of the convergence of faculty interests, emerging technological advancements, and the needs and desires of Illinois citizens. The university will strive to provide sufficient faculty and student administrative and technical support to ensure successful, effective, and efficient distance education offerings. The primary purpose of distance education is to serve constituents who might not otherwise be able to take advantage of Illinois State's quality, in-class educational offerings. Distance education and distance education technologies will be used to target on-campus students when they offer educational opportunities that cannot be provided in the classroom, provide the highest quality of instruction and evaluation, and maintain the university's small college atmosphere.

- The question is whether sections of regularly offered courses that will be offered in the distance education format need College Curriculum Committee review and approval. The AAF/Academic Senate will accept UCC comments and Crow's suggestions and come up with something that will work.
- Trefzger suggested the concern (regarding the distance education report sent to the Senate) may be due to wording of AAF's revisions. UCC is mentioned on several occasions and it might appear as though proposals for distance ed courses would need to go to UCC for approval. Confusion may relate to changes in UCC guidelines that were implemented after the original distance ed report was completed.
- The main issue is whether distance education courses should be approved only at the department level or be sent to the college for approval.
- Nursing would like to see the course approval process remain at the local level – but having approval at the college-level would work for them as well. Kossman, School of Nursing, said that there are several on-line Nursing courses. There is research that shows the success of on-line nursing courses. Many NUR courses are on-line for the Pre-Licensure students and Nursing master's degree students.
- It was noted that the demographics of Nursing is different than other departments. Mennonite's program is known to be a good model for distance education teaching. The question for this discussion is whether changing to a distance ed format is strictly a change in pedagogy, or more. Should the college, not just the department, have oversight when changing to distance ed format? For example, it might mean the college would need to supply more or better computers for instructors who will be teaching courses via distance education.
- Nursing does not want to see a philosophy that precludes them from offering classes on-line to their students who need to take courses from off-campus, such as their Pre-Licensure students.

- AAF is open to rewording of the Distance Education Philosophy statement. UCC suggestions were to remove “cannot be provided in the classroom” from the philosophy statement and change “offer educational opportunities” to “enhance educational opportunities.” Reid will take the suggestions to the Senate.
- At a UCC executive committee meeting earlier this week, there was concern about who would have oversight of the distance education proposal process. Since UCC does not have oversight of courses (under the new UCC Guidelines), it doesn’t seem likely it would come under UCC responsibilities.
- Course review was discussed; a five year review of the courses was suggested. Quane asked if distance ed courses could be reviewed during program review. It would be a convenient way to institutionalize review of distance ed courses. They could ask a department during program review, “what courses are being taught via distance ed?” and possibly look at the courses at that time.
- Trefzger distributed a handout to the committee with his recommendations for rewording the Distance Education document to add: “It should be noted that under curricular changes enacted in 2004, a mere course change (including a change from traditional to distance format), if unaccompanied by a program change, is not routinely reviewed beyond the college level. A program change is deemed to occur only when the catalog description of a major, minor, or sequence is affected.”
- Craig asked if AAF knew what other institutions were doing in regards to distance education. Reid said that had not been investigated. Craig asked about the scope of distance ed courses here. Reid said that he did not know and asked what percentage of Mennonite courses were being taught with distance ed format. Kossman said that one whole track and half of the master’s program are distance education. Quane said (in response to Craig’s question about scope of distance ed here) that there are only 3 departments with an on-line course listed in the fall class registration directory.
- Bassopo-Moyo said in EAF courses have to go through department approval to be taught as a distance ed course; an instructor cannot just decide to teach a section under the distance ed format. DFSC is indirectly involved in the decision. His own experiences with course development on-line is that you cannot start by putting the whole course on-line. Initially, the faculty needs some contact with the student. You need to establish how a course will meet its intended goal. There should be a gradual process for a course to become an on-line course; continually evaluate a course to make sure it meets the student’s needs, and the course goals.
- Reid suggested that the committee establish standards for distance education courses. Morenus agreed that there needs to be more direction given to faculty to have a well-designed distance education course. There is much to be gained; distance ed provides opportunities. This University could be the front runner of distance education.
- All agreed that the student must be considered when taking action on distance education. The Academic Senate will be discussing the Distance Education Report at the meeting this evening.

3. INFORMATION: The University Curriculum Committee Executive Secretary approved the following:

Temporary Course:

ENG

189.61 FILM STYLE AND LITERATURE MC-LH 3 F,S,
ENG 101 req. Not for cr if had ENG 107.

An introduction to the analysis of films and their literary components through an application of specialized terms and concepts.

New Decimalized Topics:

CJS

360.14 ISSUES IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE: THE CAREER CRIMINAL 1-4 F,S
A critical and analytical study of the distinction between career criminals and criminal careers and their implications for understanding criminal behavior and the criminal justice system’s response to offending.

4. ADJOURNED: The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m. The next meeting will be on April 6, 2005.