

## UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

Minutes #12 approved (2010-2012 Undergraduate Catalog)

April 29, 2009

**Members Present:** Barry, Califf, Cook, Kaesberg, Lessoff, Lopez, Morenus, Palmer, Radhakrishnan, Rosenthal, Standard, Trefzger

**Members Absent:** Dean, Murphy, Semonis, Walker

1. **CONVENED:** Morenus convened the meeting at 3:06 p.m.
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: #11, April 15, 2009.** Califf moved to approve the minutes with corrections, Cook seconded. The committee unanimously approved the minutes as corrected.

### 3. **IDS MINOR REVIEW DISCUSSION:**

IDS MINOR IN COGNITIVE SCIENCE

(Cook/Radhakrishnan)

Cook and Radhakrishnan presented a summative report of the self-study program review from the Cognitive Science Faculty Group (consisting of faculty from Philosophy, Information Technology, Psychology, Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, Biological Sciences, English and Mathematics).

- The Minor in Cognitive Science has 10-12 active students enrolled in any year; a total of 31 students from 12 majors enrolled in the minor over a five year period.
- Most of the students enrolled in the minor were in four majors: English, Information Technology, Philosophy, and Psychology. The other majors were represented by one student each.
- The Cognitive Science Faculty Group is composed of twenty faculty members from eight disciplines, who meet to discuss ideas in the field, facilitate collaborations on grant proposals, and co-sponsor guest lectures. A committee from the group conducted the program review.
- The committee proposed several recommendations for improvement in promoting the minor and bringing together students enrolled in the minor. It was felt that low enrollment from some majors may not reflect lack of interest, but rather lack of student awareness. If the number of students in the minor could be increased from 10 to 30 or more, the committee would contemplate proposing a major modeled on the one at Washington University in St. Louis.
- The following are some of the recommendations that can help increase the number of students in the minor:
  - (1) Steps could be taken to publicize the minor among majors (especially Psychology, Philosophy, English and Information Technology) by talking to students about the advantages of the minor in their majors.
  - (2) Brochures could be prepared for distribution by academic advisors to the students in the appropriate majors.
  - (3) Appropriate changes in the requirements for a cognitive science minor could be made so that these changes would not only create interest and motivate the students to take this minor, but also strengthen the quality of the program.
  - (4) Further, the faculty group could investigate what other schools offering this minor or major have done to promote a healthy level of student enrollment.
- One of the suggestions from the Cognitive Science faculty reviewing committee to the whole Cognitive Science Faculty Group is to consider adding a new "Proseminar in Cognitive Science" which would be taken for each of three semesters. This course would replace three hours in the quantitative category; hence the number of hours in the minor would not increase. The course would be taught by one of the faculty group. Elements that might be included in this course are (1) required attendance at colloquia in several different disciplines, (2) reading and discussing influential articles in contemporary cognitive science, and (3) guest appearances by faculty sharing the latest results of their research.
- Their tentative proposals include a formal review of the requirements for each of the four "tracks" or "emphases." They have recommended only one change for the psychology emphasis.
- Added suggestions from Cook/Radhakrishnan:

- (1) An explicit statement of the student learning outcomes could provide direction as the minor is promoted and the sense of community among the students strengthened.
- (2) Follow up on careers of graduates of the minor could provide inspiration to students and help promote the minor.
- (3) Informing advisors in relevant departments about the minor might be an effective means of publicizing the minor.

Rosenthal asked if the potential “proseminar course” would be a one hour course. Cook said that it would be; The idea is for students to attend an already existing seminar. Rosenthal asked about the number of “core faculty.” Califf said there are eight to ten people who have expressed an interest.

Rosenthal will send a memo to the Cognitive Science Faculty with comments representative of the review by Cook and Radhakrishnan and send a copy to Jan Murphy, Associate Provost.

#### 4. LIAISON REPORTS:

- a. **Council on General Education:** Morenus reported that CGE met and discussed two IDS courses and voted on the deletion of the Minor in Tourism.
- b. **Council for Teacher Education:** Palmer – Nothing to report.
- c. **Academic Affairs Committee:** Lessoff reported that AAF discussed a diversity issue, a “social justice” requirement that a student suggested adding to General Education. The student suggested a stipulation that students would take a set of courses with a social justice dimension. The issue was challenged and he doesn’t know if it will come back. AAF concluded for the semester.

Rosenthal reported that the AAF had a point-counterpoint on the recommendation to delete the constitution exam requirement, which primarily impacts transfer students. Illinois Community College Board said it doesn’t apply to higher education. He also reported that the ten-year time limit (for previously taken courses to count towards credit in a program) was approved, but was made more flexible with a bit more latitude; it will be 7-10 years and only appears as a prerequisite if a department chooses to put it there. They don’t want to unnecessarily impede students. The limit will be shown in the Baccalaureate Degree Document.

5. **STAFF REPORT:** Rosenthal reported on summer projects he and Ryburn will be working on: (1) Forward section of the catalog revision/simplification, (2) review of ISU/catalog policies; (3) guidelines for decimalization of topics courses versus workshops versus temporary courses; and (4) the revision of the UCC Policies and Procedures to reflect the new online proposal process.
6. **MISCELLANEOUS:** Ryburn presented the UCC Annual Report and asked for approval for it to be sent to the Academic Senate. The report was approved with no objections and will be sent to the Academic Senate tomorrow.
7. **INFORMATION:** The University Curriculum Committee Executive Secretary approved the following:

Decimalized Courses:

#### IDS

**121.55 TEXTS AND CONTEXTS: SEEN AND NOT HEARD: CHILDREN AND THE THEATRE – A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE MC-LH  
3 sem. hrs.**

**The course will explore the place of children as consumers of theatre, and the relationship between society’s perception of children and childhood and the theatrical offerings for children and young audiences. Students will read and analyze numerous plays for young audiences and place them within historical, political and social frameworks. Prerequisites: ENG 101; COM 110 or concurrent registration.**

**IDS**

**121.56 TEXTS AND CONTEXTS: AMERICAN IMMIGRATION HISTORY MC-LH**

**3 sem. hrs.**

**Survey of the immigration experience of women, men, and children who came to the United States from the colonial era through the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Through lectures, movies and readings emphasizing cultural, social, and economic history, focus will be on migration and on the ways race, ethnicity, gender, class and national ideas shaped the lives of immigrants during these periods. At the same time the course will explore the ways that immigrants have confronted and shaped American culture and society.**

**Prerequisites: ENG 101; COM 110 or concurrent registration.**

- 8. ADJOURNED:** Cook moved to adjourn the meeting, Califf seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m. The next UCC meeting will be held after classes resume in August, 2009.