

College of Arts & Sciences Faculty Meeting
Wednesday, April 16, 2008
3:30 p.m.
Nebraska Union, City Campus

- 3:30 p.m. Iced tea, coffee, and tea bars
3:45 p.m. Meeting begins

AGENDA

- Item I. Approval of minutes from the Special Faculty Meeting, January 28, 2008.
- Item II. Opening comments.
- Item III. Opportunity for faculty to ask questions arising from annual reports of the various college committees (see appendix).
- Executive Committee
 - Committee on Academic Distinction and Awards for Students
 - Curriculum Committee
 - Faculty Instructional Development Committee
 - Grading Appeals Committee
 - Assessment Committee
- Item IV. Recommendation from the College Curriculum Committee to approve Essential Studies courses listed for Area C, Human Behavior, Culture and Social Organization and Area H, Ethnicity and Gender (see appendix). Supporting materials are available for review in the Dean's Office.
- Item V. Recommendation from the College Curriculum Committee to approve Integrative Studies courses (see appendix). Supporting materials are available for review in the Dean's Office.
- Item VI. Recommendation from the College Curriculum Committee to approve the new college distribution requirements.
- Item VII. Opportunity to ask questions of the Dean.

APPENDIX

Item I. Approval of minutes from the Special Faculty Meeting, January 28, 2008.

College of Arts and Sciences
Special Faculty Meeting
Minutes
1/29/2008

Dean Manderscheid called the meeting to order at 3:45 p.m.

Item I. Approval of minutes from the Fall Faculty Meeting, December 13, 2007. L. Ambrosius moved approval; G. Snow seconded. Discussion:

- Replace "Council" with "Counsel" on p. 2. [L. Ambrosius]

Approved by a show of hands.

Item II. Opening comments. Dean Manderscheid announced that K. Winkle will take minutes in place of V. Gorman.

Item III. Recommendation from the Dean to approve the proposed changes to the College By-laws as discussed at the December 2007 College Faculty Meeting. Discussion:

- The Dean summarized the proposed changes and the rationales for adopting them. [D. Manderscheid]
- Speaking as a member of the current Executive Committee, the committee's advising function has diminished substantially because of the weight of its promotion and tenure responsibilities. The Dean should have access to advice throughout the year, including the winter months when the committee is preoccupied with promotion and tenure reviews. [S. Belasco]
- Another member of the committee reiterated those sentiments. [P. Maslowski]
- Replace "insure" with "ensure" in Section V, Section 1A. [W. Seiler]
- Question about when the new provisions will take effect. [R. Gorman]
- Changes in the College By-laws require approval of the Board of Regents, but the College can begin preparing for the changes now. [D. Manderscheid]
- Question about how the Assessment Committee will be reduced from nine voting members to six. [R. Gorman]
- Three voting members, one from each of the represented areas, are leaving at the end of this year, and they will not be replaced. [A. Goodburn]
- Suggestion to set a firm date for the new provisions to take effect. [R. Gorman]
- Suggestion to set the beginning of the next academic year as a date. [W. Seiler]
- Caution not to set a firm date pending approval by the Board of Regents. [L. Ambrosius]
- Question about the need to elect new members to the existing committees. [R. Gorman]
- On the Assessment Committee, only the number of members is changing. [L. Ambrosius]
- The intent is that the current committees will remain intact through this academic year. At the beginning of the next academic year, the current Executive Committee will become the Promotion and Tenure Committee and the revised Executive Committee will begin. [D. Manderscheid]

Call the question. Approved by a show of hands.

Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned: 3:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kenneth J. Winkle

Item III. Opportunity for faculty to ask questions arising from annual reports of the various college committees.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

As per its charge, the Executive Committee reviewed and made recommendations for faculty representation on the College's standing committees; met with and made recommendations regarding the hiring of candidates who might merit an offer with tenure; and met with candidates for the position of Dean of Arts and Sciences.

The annual review of tenure and promotion recommendations began in December. The committee reviewed 9 recommendations regarding promotion to Associate Professor with tenure, 8 recommendations regarding promotion to Full Professor, 1 promotion to Associate Professor of Practice and 1 promotion to Research Associate Professor.

2007-08 Committee Members: Professors Susan Belasco (English), Anthony Zera (Biological Sciences), Byron Orey (Political Science), Peter Maslowski (History), Marjorie Langell (Chemistry) and Associate Dean Edward Schmidt.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC DISTINCTION AND AWARDS FOR STUDENTS

This report covers the period of three graduations: May 2007, August 2007 and December 2007. The College of Arts & Sciences awarded 13 degrees with Highest Distinction, 62 degrees with High Distinction, and 41 degrees with Distinction. For May 2008, the committee will consider 8 students for degrees with Highest Distinction, 36 students for degrees with High Distinction and 54 students for degrees with Distinction.

For the third year the college combined its process with the UNL Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid. There were 403 A&S students who completed the OSFA Upper-class scholarship application. Only 189 of those students also completed the A&S portion of the application. The committee considered over 115 students for the 20-24 scholarship funds controlled by the college and will make one nomination for the Kate Field Grant-in-aid and two nominations for the Donald Walters Miller Scholarship.

2007-08 Committee Members: Professors Julia McQuillan (Sociology), Lawrence Harshman (Biological Sciences), John Gruhl (Political Science), Anne Duncan (Classics & Religious Studies), Shireen Adenwalla (Physics & Astronomy) ; and Associate Dean Amy Goodburn.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

The committee reviewed 53 new course proposals; 6 of which received blanket approval for Essential Studies; 88 change in course proposals; 17 course deletion proposals; 6 Essential Studies proposals from A&S and 3 courses outside the college; 7 Integrative Studies proposals; 11 proposals for various majors and minors; and 3 new proposals and one revision for the Individualized Program of Studies.

The Committee forwarded to the faculty the following recommendations:

- to approve 6 courses to fulfill the University Essential Studies requirements for Arts & Sciences majors.
- to approve 7 courses to be forwarded to the University Curriculum Committee for Integrative Studies designation.
- to approve changes in the college distribution requirements.
- to approve changes in the policy regarding minors outside the College.
- to approve a new minor in Criminal Justice.
- to approve changes in the major in Film Studies.
- to approve changes in the major and minor in Women's & Gender Studies.

The committee forwarded directly to the University Curriculum Committee: 24 new course proposals, 82 course change proposals, 7 Integrative Studies proposals, and 7 course deletions proposals. The Committee approved non-substantive changes in the Economics major; Education minor; Environmental Studies major and minor; Ethnic Studies major; Humanities in Medicine Minor; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Sexuality Studies minor; Physics and Astronomy major; Political Science major. These changes went directly to the bulletin editor.

Finally, the committee made nominations for vacancies on the College Promotion and Tenure Committee (formerly the Executive Committee) and the College Curriculum Committee for the 2008-09 AY. The chair for the 2008-09 academic year will be decided at the next committee meeting.

2007-08 Committee Members: Professors Carolyn Edwards (Psychology); Steve Lavin (Anthropology & Geography); Greg Snow, Chair (Physics & Astronomy); Glenn Ledder (Mathematics); Jennifer McKittrick (Philosophy); Amanda Crook (Student Advisory Board); Liz Gleason (Student Advisory Board); Erin Sayer (Advising); Asst Dean Bill Watts; and Associate Dean Amy Goodburn (Executive Secretary).

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FACULTY INSTRUCTIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The committee considered nominations for Distinguished Teaching Awards and for the McClymont Award. One nomination for the Annis Chaikin Sorenson Award for distinguished teaching in the humanities was forwarded to the UNL Teaching Council's Subcommittee on Distinguished Teaching Awards and five nominations were made for the College Distinguished Teaching Award. The awardees will be honored at various events including the Arts & Sciences Honors Convocation on April 18, 2008.

The College Distinguished Teaching Award winners are: **Marco Abel**, Assistant Professor, English; **Alan Christensen**, Assistant Professor, School of Biological Sciences; **T. Adrian George**, Professor, Chemistry; **Mark Griep**, Associate Professor, Chemistry; **Nicholas Spencer**, Associate Professor, English.

The committee considered five nominations for the Graduate Studies Graduate Teaching Assistant Award and one nomination for the Graduate Studies Graduate Research Award.

The recipients for the College Graduate Teaching Assistant Awards are **Casandra LeClair-Underberg**, Communication Studies; **Michael Page**, English; **Sandra Tarabochia**, English. The recipient for the College Research Assisant Award is **Mitchel Herian**, Political Science.

All of these students will be recognized at the Arts & Sciences Honors Convocation on April 18, 2008.

Committee Members: Professors Rick Bevins (Psychology); Amy Burnett (History); Norm Smith (Geosciences); Johannes (Jean) Knops (Biological Sciences); Jordan Stump (Modern Languages & Literatures); Sarah Fech (Student Advisory Board representative); Timothy Robbins (graduate student representative), and Associate Dean Amy Goodburn.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GRADING APPEALS COMMITTEE

The Committee has received no appeals at this point in the academic year.

2007-08 Committee Members: Professors Kenneth Bloom (Physics & Astronomy); Peter Bleed (Anthropology & Geography); Susanna Schrafstetter (History); Steph Sutton and Steve Paulmeyer (Student Advisory Board); Michelle Maresh (Graduate Student, Communication Studies); Associate Dean Jessica Coope.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

In October the Assessment Committee reviewed the results of the 2007 National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) for UNL. In particular, the Committee focused on the College of Arts and Sciences results in comparison with other UNL colleges in the following areas: level of academic challenge, active and collaborative learning, student-faculty interaction, and enriching educational experiences. The Committee discussed the results and volunteered itself as a resource to departments/programs as they continue collecting data for the 2008 reporting cycle. Because of the College's biennial reporting cycle, the next collection of assessment reports will be due in September of 2008. Consequently, the Committee did not respond to program/department assessment reports this year.

2007-08 Committee Members: Professors John Orr (Biological Sciences); Robert Gorman (Classics & Religious Studies); Al Williams (Sociology); Victoria Smith (History); Luwen Zhang (Biological Sciences); Patrice McMahon (Political Science); Mila Saskova-Pierce (Modern Languages & Literatures); Chris Bilder (Statistics); Elizabeth Thiess-Morse (Political Science); Scott Johnson (Student Advisory Board representative); Associate Dean Amy Goodburn

Item IV. Recommendation from the College Curriculum Committee to approve Essential Studies courses.**Area C. Human Behavior, Culture and Social Organization**

ETHN 202 Introduction to US Latina/Latino Studies (3 cr)

Area H. Ethnicity & Gender

ETHN 202 Introduction to US Latina/Latino Studies (3 cr)

Item V. Recommendation from the College Curriculum Committee to approve Integrative Studies courses.

MATH 203J Contemporary Math-CJMC (3 cr)

Item VI. Recommendation from the College Curriculum Committee to approve the new college distribution requirements.**Proposed:****College of Arts and Sciences Distribution Requirements**

April 2008

The College of Arts and Sciences Distribution Requirements are designed to further the purposes of liberal education by encouraging study in several different areas. Courses satisfying these requirements may impart specialized knowledge or broadly connect the subject matter to other areas of knowledge.

All requirements are in addition to University ACE requirements. A student may not use a single course to satisfy more than one of the following 5 Distribution Requirements. A student cannot use a single course to satisfy both an ACE outcome and a College Distribution Requirement. Independent study courses and internships cannot be used to satisfy Distribution Requirements.

Courses from interdisciplinary programs will count in the same area as courses from the home/cross-listed department(s). See <http://ascweb.unl.edu/academics/depts.html> for a complete list.

Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science (19 credits + Language)

1. Written Communication: 3 hours
To be selected from courses approved for ACE Outcome 1

2. Natural, Physical and Mathematical Sciences: 7 hours
From 2 different departments, including at least 1 lab science course from the Natural or Physical sciences. Lab courses may be selected from Biochemistry, Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Geosciences, Physics and Astronomy, Geography and Anthropology*. All other courses select from: Biochemistry, Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Computer Science and Engineering, Geosciences, Mathematics, Physics & Astronomy, and Statistics.
** see degree audit or College of A&S advisor for approved Geography and Anthropology lab courses*
3. Humanities: 6 hours
From 2 different departments, select from Classics*, English, History, Modern Languages & Literatures*, Philosophy, and Religious Studies*
**language courses numbered 210 or below apply only for the Foreign Language requirement*
4. Social Sciences: 3 hours
Select from Anthropology, Communication Studies, Geography, Political Science, Psychology, or Sociology
5. Languages Classical & Modern: 0-6 hours
Fulfilled by the completion of 6 credit hours at the 200-level or above in a single foreign language in one of the following departments: Classics and Religious Studies, Modern Languages and Literatures, or Anthropology. Instruction is currently available in Biblical Hebrew, Chinese, Czech, French, German, Greek, Japanese, Latin, Omaha, Russian, and Spanish. A student who has completed the fourth-year level of one foreign language in high school is exempt from the languages requirement.

In addition to the College of A&S distribution requirements, the Bachelor of Science degree requires students to complete 60 semester hours in the Natural and Mathematical Sciences.

Background and justification:

College Distribution Requirements Proposal

The proposal for recommendations for College distribution requirements is based on a review of the current College requirements in concert with the ACE proposals that were approved in December of 2007. This proposal was unanimously approved (9-0) by the Committee on Distribution Requirements and (8-0) by the College Curriculum Committee (CCC) on April 1, 2008.*

To develop these recommendations, the committees sought to meet several goals:

- Clearly demarcate the differences between the university-approved ACE program and the College distribution requirements,
- Develop a streamlined and transparent set of requirements that students, faculty, and advisors could easily understand and navigate,
- Maintain breadth and rigor in requirements to ensure the integrity of the liberal arts mission of the College of Arts and Sciences,
- Allow for course flexibility for students and for departments and programs

The Committee on Distribution Requirements met four times in January to develop the initial proposal and submitted it to the CCC in February. After receiving feedback from the CCC, the subcommittee revised the proposal, which was submitted to the CCC again and passed with a vote of 5-2 in its March meeting. The proposal was then presented for discussion at three faculty forums.

One issue that surfaced in all three forums was a concern for the number of "free electives" that students pursuing Bachelor of Science degrees would have available to them. With the combination of the ACE program and the college distribution requirements, several faculty expressed concerns that students would take longer to pursue a degree and that they would not be able to pursue other areas of interest. Since there is curricular overlap between some of the natural science and social science areas (e.g. some courses in psychology, geography, and

anthropology currently count for natural science requirements), the Committee felt that reducing the number of hours in the area of social sciences would have less impact than a reduction in the humanities. Consequently, the Committee on Distribution Requirements voted unanimously (9-0) to reduce the social sciences category from 6 hours to 3 hours and submitted the proposal to the CCC, which voted unanimously 8-0 to approve the proposal on April 1st, 2008.

***Committee on College Distribution Requirements** :Al Casullo (Philosophy), Sidnie White Crawford (Classics and Religious Studies), Chris Gallagher (English), Amy Goodburn (Dean's Office), John Gruhl (Political Science), John Osterman (Biological Sciences), Greg Snow (Physics & Astronomy), Judy Walker (Mathematics), and Bill Watts (Advising).

College Curriculum Committee: Amanda Crook (student rep), Liz Gleason (student rep), Amy Goodburn (Dean's Office), Steve Lavin (Anthropology & Geography), Jennifer McKittrick (Philosophy), Carolyn Pope Edwards (Psychology), and Greg Snow (Physics & Astronomy).

Frequently Asked Questions

Why are we equalizing the credits for the Bachelor of Arts and the Bachelor of Science degrees?

In keeping with our goal to develop a streamlined and transparent set of requirements, we chose to develop a set of distribution requirements that would be the same regardless of whether a student is pursuing a BA or BS degree. While course requirements within students' majors are distinctly different, distribution requirements are designed to further the purposes of liberal education for all students and thus are the same.

Why are we moving from approved area lists to allowing all department courses to count?

The Committee wanted to clearly delineate the differences between the ACE requirements and the College distribution requirements. Because departments/programs are the intellectual units in the College for different A&S disciplines, we encourage students to choose from all department offerings rather than from lists of approved courses as is presently the case. We feel this system will allow greater flexibility for students and eliminate bureaucracy for departments (since they will not have to submit separate paperwork for courses to be considered for inclusion in the distribution requirements). This new structure also allows courses that are not put forth for the ACE program to still be included for College distribution courses.

Why did the College not require more writing-intensive courses?

The Committee recognizes that faculty believe in the importance of writing and for providing students with multiple opportunities for writing in a range of courses at all levels of the curriculum. Several faculty suggested adopting a list of College-approved writing-intensive (WI) courses, with recommendations that students be required to take four or five WI courses. Other faculty argued against this recommendation, suggesting that writing-intensive approaches are already utilized within major programs and that adding additional WI courses would create an extra layer of bureaucracy (ex. College approved lists) with no mechanisms for assessment. The Committee also discussed a statement by the Composition faculty regarding current university initiatives to support effective approaches to teaching and assessing writing and their recommendation to maintain the additional three-hour written communication requirement. Consequently, the Committee recommends that the College require one additional 3-hour written communication course to be selected from the ACE Outcome 1 list.

Why is the Historical Studies requirement being eliminated?

The Committee discussed the difficulty of implementing the current 6-hour historical studies requirement with the new ACE outcomes. While ACE outcomes 5 & 6 include the phrase "historical perspectives" in their wording, several faculty expressed concern that there is a difference between using "historical perspectives" and "historical studies." Some faculty have suggested that the additional six hours of historical studies should be retained. On the other hand, the Committee proposes that students take 6 hours from the area of the Humanities and 3 from Social Sciences. Many of these courses currently populate the Historical Studies ES list. Moreover, eliminating the historical perspectives requirement eliminates the need for maintaining a separate college list of courses, reducing bureaucracy and the need for departments to propose courses for this special designation.

What about interdisciplinary programs? How will the courses be designated?

We recognize that some interdisciplinary program courses are not crosslisted with departments that fall into one of the three areas of Humanities, Social Sciences, or Natural and Mathematical Sciences. In these few instances, the

programs will need to determine how they will designate their courses (for instance, should introduction to women's and gender studies be designated a "Humanities" or a "Social Science" course?). But the benefits of moving from a list of approved courses to allowing all courses within our College to be used for distribution requirements seems to far outweigh these few instances. Moreover, most courses in interdisciplinary programs are cross-listed with departments from which students can choose their distribution requirements.

Can Departments exclude courses from counting as College Distribution Requirements?

Departments control their own course offerings and curriculum. Departments can choose to designate courses which do not fulfill the College Distribution Requirements, a designation which should be noted in the bulletin course description for each particular course.

Why have you kept the scientific base for the BS degree?

The Committee discussed the role of the 60-semester-hour scientific base and whether it should be eliminated. Students who are majoring in the sciences typically have no trouble meeting the scientific base requirements since science courses in their majors count toward this base. The base seems targeted at students who wish to pursue a BS in a major outside of the sciences. The Committee felt that the scientific base should be maintained until a full review of its role can be undertaken by the College Curriculum Committee.

Item VII. Opportunity to ask questions of the Dean.