

Academic Council Meeting
November 12, 2007

Members Present: Sr. Donna Jurick (presiding), Charlie Bicak, Fr. Lou Brusatti, Bethany Carroll (SGA Representative), Ramsey Fowler, Mike Harris, Lance Hayes, Marianne Hopper, Karen Jenlink, Tom Leonhardt, Molly Minus, Pat Perry, Mary Rist, Lynn Rudloff, Frank Smith, Anna Stewart, Rudy Trejo (SGA Representative), Brenda Vallance, Austin Wood (SGA Representative)

Members Absent: Whitney Brewer (SGA Representative), Tom Evans, Sarah Henseler, Tracy Manier, Fidelma O'Leary

Others Present: Barbara Henderson, Amanda Holland (recording)

1. Minutes of the October 15, 2007 Academic Council Meeting

It was noted that the date recorded on the October minutes should read 2007 not 2006.

The minutes were unanimously approved with one correction noted.

2. Philosophy of Science

Fr. Lou Brusatti proposed that PHIL 4340: Philosophy of Science be added to the 2008-2009 University Bulletin. The course will introduce students to basic themes in the history and philosophy of science and will be divided into a historical and contemporary section. The course will be a major requirement for all philosophy majors and will replace the current requirement of SCIE 4345: History and Philosophy of Science taught through the School of Natural Sciences. The new course will be offered through the School of Humanities and will be more appropriate for philosophy majors as it will focus on the philosophy rather than the history of science.

It was noted in discussion that PHIL 4340 may need a prerequisite that states students must have junior standing or permission of the instructor to enroll in the course as it is a requirement for all upper-level philosophy courses. Also noted was the need to determine whether or not it is appropriate to allow students to complete both PHIL 4340 and SCIE 4345 for credit—this is appropriate only if the course content does not overlap significantly. At this time, it is believed that the focus of each of the courses is significantly different and that both courses should be allowed for credit.

Motion: To add PHIL 4340: Philosophy of Science to the 2008-2009 University Bulletin as a replacement for the major requirement previously satisfied by SCIE 4345: History and Philosophy of Science. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

3. Behavioral and Social Sciences Course Additions

Brenda Vallance proposed the addition of three new courses to the 2008-2009 University Bulletin. Two courses, GLST 1326: Survey of East Asia and GLST 1327: Survey of the

Middle East area survey courses to be added to the Global Studies major offerings. Each course will cover the political geography of East Asia/The Middle East and will introduce the basic history, politics and government, economic developments, regional integration and conflicts, and cultural influences in the region.

It was also proposed that POLS 3321: The Politics and Governments of Asia be added to the 2008-2009 University Bulletin as part of the newly added East Asia concentration within the Global Studies major. This course may need to be offered every other year to ensure adequate enrollment. The course will be used as an elective option within other majors such as Political Science and International Business.

It was noted in discussion that while no prerequisites have been set up for any of the three courses, a prerequisite may be needed for POLS 3321 as it is an upper-division course rather than an entry-level survey course.

Motion: To approve the addition of GLST 1326: Survey of East Asia, GLST 1327: Survey of the Middle East, and POLS 3321: The Politics and Governments of Asia be added to the 2008-2009 University Bulletin. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

4. Journalism Course Additions

Fr. Lou Brusatti proposed three course additions be added to the School of Humanities and several courses be renamed to clarify a sequence in the journalism curriculum to be effected in the 2008-2009 University Bulletin. Two courses to be created are special topics—JOUR 4331: Special Topics in Print Journalism and JOUR 4332: Special Topics in Broadcast Journalism. The third course to be added is JOUR 3304: Entertainment Journalism—this course has been offered as a special topics course within the English Writing department for the past five years. As this course will continue to be offered regularly in the future, it is appropriate to assign it a course number within the Journalism department.

It was also proposed that four courses be renamed to clarify the sequence in which these courses should be taken. JOUR 2321: Introduction to Journalism will become Journalism I; JOUR 3322: News Writing will become Journalism II; JOUR 3305: Advanced News Writing will become Journalism III; and JOUR 3303: Editorial, Review and Column Writing will become Opinion Writing.

It was noted in discussion that while the titles of the renamed courses will convey sequencing, the course numbers are not in sequence with 3322 being taken before 3305. The course numbers can not simply be swapped because these courses have already been offered in the past. At this time, the only solution would be to find a higher sequence of numbers that have not been previously assigned to a course and to make it clear that any student having previously taken a course under the old number can not retake the course under the newly assigned number for credit. It may be more effective to leave the course numbers as they are; however, this issue should be explored by the School of Humanities

and the Office of the Registrar before a decision is made and the courses are added to the 2008-2009 University Bulletin.

Motion: To add JOUR 4331: Special Topics in Print Journalism, JOUR 4332: Special Topics in Broadcast Journalism, and JOUR 3304: Entertainment Journalism to the 2008-2009 University Bulletin and to rename JOUR 2321: Introduction to Journalism, JOUR 3322: News Writing, JOUR 3305: Advanced News Writing, and JOUR 3303: Editorial, Review and Column Writing, Journalism I, Journalism II, Journalism III, and Opinion Writing respectively. Motion passed with unanimous approval.

5. New College Bulletin Revisions

Ramsey Fowler proposed that the course prefixes for A-NCCI 3330: Critical Thinking and Research and A-APLR 1132: Prior Learning Assessment Seminar be changed to A-NCCT and A-PLAS, respectively. When the course titles for these two courses were changed the proposal neglected to change the prefixes as appropriate and is amending this error at present.

It was noted in discussion that A-NCCT looks too much like an accounting course. It was agreed that rather than A-NCCT the course prefix will be A-NCCR to avoid confusion. Also noted is the necessity to convey that any student completing these courses under the old acronym will not be able to receive duplicate credit for the courses if they retake them under the new acronym.

Motion: To approve the course prefix changes from A-NCCI 3330 and A-APLR 1132 to A-NCCR and A-PLAS, respectively. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

6. New College English Major Revision

Ramsey Fowler proposed that the current 42-hour English major be revised to a 36-hour major to be comparable with the same major at benchmark institutions. This change will improve class sizes and will offer students a greater variety of options in the 12-hour elective category within the major. The major will retain a 50-50 split between literature and writing in the core and will allow students to meet graduate school requirements as well as prepare for professional writing careers, whichever is desired by the student.

It was noted in discussion that the six hour difference in the old and new degree plan comes from the removal of those hours from the core curriculum. The courses removed will be added as elective options and will still be offered. It was also noted that A-ENGW 2300: Effective Writing, listed as a prerequisite for all English courses, should read A-ENGW 1310: Effective Writing. A-ENGW 2300 is actually Introduction to Creative Writing, which is listed as an elective option in the proposal.

Motion: To reduce the New College English major from a 42-hour degree program to a 36-hour degree program. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

7. Individual Bachelor of Arts with a major in Dance and Humanities

Ramsey Fowler presented the New College major in Dance and the Humanities which will combine credit for certificated learning based upon dance skills, techniques, and knowledge gained through Ballet Austin with an array of courses in the humanities including history, literature, philosophy, art history, and religious studies taken at SEU. This major will be offered through the existing Individual Bachelor of Arts degree already available to New College students.

This major was developed to offer professional dancers an opportunity to earn an undergraduate degree which will aid them in gaining employment once their professional dancing career has ended—which is often short in comparison to other careers, often ending when most careers are beginning to flourish. This degree will give dancers the opportunity to learn what careers, other than dance, could be meaningful to them; therefore, prior learning assessment and career counseling have been integrated into the curriculum.

Currently, there are only two universities within this country that have programs directed in the same manner proposed—St. Mary’s in San Francisco and Long Island University in New York. This gives SEU the opportunity to create a niche program in the arts for the university. If the major is successful, it could become a permanent degree program outside of the Individual Bachelor of Arts.

All core courses, as well as the Mission Course Sequence, necessary for this major will be offered at the Butler Dance Education Center classroom so that students can complete a majority of the coursework at the Ballet Austin campus.

To ensure that the certificated learning earned through Ballet Austin fit college-level expectations, the program was compared to and modeled after the dance program at UT-Austin.

It was noted in discussion that the program is very similar to one offered to Registered Nurses many years ago at SEU. While the pool of prospective students may dry up relatively quickly at Ballet Austin, the uniqueness of the program will provide opportunities to work with other dance companies/houses, such as the Houston Ballet, to extend the program to professional dancers in a variety of locations. Because the major is part of the Individual Bachelor of Arts, there will not be a need to end the program due to low enrollment. The major will be open only to Ballet Austin dancers.

Also brought up in discussion was if a vocational dimension had been considered as part of this new major, to which the answer is no. The degree is meant to be a liberal arts degree which will allow the student to pursue any career they may be interested in. Many

dancers pursue careers outside of dance once their professional careers are over and this program at SEU is intended to be a beginning to pursuing any desired career.

Resolution: To support the creation of a Dance and the Humanities major within the Individualized Bachelor of Arts degree to be offered solely to Ballet Austin dancers. The resolution passed with unanimous support of the Academic Council.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda K Holland