**Final Report 2016-17**

**Undergraduate Curriculum Committee**

**Membership**

The Committee met weekly throughout the fall and spring semesters. The membership was as follows:

Anjali Thapar and Jody Cohen, Co-Chairs

Yonglin Jiang

Melissa Pashigian (fall)

Michael Schulz

Mary Osirim, Provost

Bill Malachowski, Associate Provost

Jennifer Walters, Undergraduate Dean

Judy Balthazar, Dean

Kirsten O’Beirne, Registrar, Invited Member

Joann O’Doherty, Executive Assistant

Student Representative: Ananya Kumar

**The following individuals or groups were invited to Curriculum Committee to discuss particular issues:**

Betsy Horner, Doug Blank, and Joshua Goldsmith - Q-Steering Committee

David Karen, Tim Harte, and Michael Rock – CAP-CC Collaboration

Camilla MacKay and Alex Pfundt – LITS

David Karen – Student Research Opportunities with Faculty

Lindsey Dever – Student Perception of Learning Data

Gina Siesing, TimHarte, David Karen, Katie Krimmel, Jennifer Spohrer – Digital Competencies Program

Azade Sehan and Qinna Shen – credit readjustment for German 001-002

Lindsey Dever and Richard Barry - Assessment of modes of inquiry

Nell Anderson, Jim Martin, Kelly Strunk – New option for Praxis

 Paul Smith – EALAC proposal

**Departmental/Program Proposals:**

**Quantitative Steering Comm. -** The committee considered and approved the proposal for a new course, Q-121 and approved the request that successful completion of Q-111 or Q-121 can be used to fulfill the Q-requirement. CC and the steering committee discussed the continued increasing staffing-enrollment pressures that need to be addressed and whether the issue has become exacerbated recent changes in the admission policy making BMC test optional.

**Biology proposal for revising major requirements** – The committee discussed and approved the proposal that students must have merit grades in ALL classes required for the major (a merit AVERAGE is not acceptable). Department has the option to allow a student to declare a major even if they have gotten a below merit grade. The committee will look at applying this across the board in the college.

**Environmental Studies major proposal** – The committee considered and approved the proposal to add a Bi-College Environmental Studies major, after a meeting with the Environmental Studies Steering Committee.

**East Asian Languages and Cultures proposal –** The committee considered and approved the proposal for several changes in the major and minor. The changes included modifications to the language requirement and replacing the EALC minor with a more general Asian Studies Minor.

**Dance proposal for revised sequence –** The committee approved the proposal to make changes to the Dance Composition and Choreography sequence, which broadens opportunities for students to engage with dance.

**German Department proposal** - The department proposed that the first year German course be regarded as an intensive language course and earn one and a half credits. The committee invited the German Department to discuss their proposal. A decision was not required since the proposal had not yet passed EPC at Haverford.

**Museum Studies proposal** – Mary Osirim requests that “pilot” be removed from Museum Studies major title, since the courses and the major are robust.

**Curricular Proposals:**

**Accepting transfer credit for Community College Courses –** Judy Balthazar discussed the issue. She explained that in the past, we would not accept credit for summer courses taken at Community Colleges. She suggested that we now need to reconsider our policy for some students that need to do summer work to catch up, taking a course at a Community College is much more affordable option for them and they are able to continue at BMC without losing credit. Currently such cases go to the Special Cases Committee and are considered on a case by case basis and typically impact a handful of students that have exhausted other options. CC discussed the possibility to routinely accept transfers with limits but in the end decided to leave it with the Special Cases Committee for now and that Judy will share with the committee data on how peer-institutions are addressing the issue.

**Proposal from LITS for Information Literacy Program** - Camilla MacKay and Alex Pfundt described the robust Library Instruction program currently available to students and faculty, but one with limitations. Specifically, there is currently no way to track students and there is inconsistency across disciplines – with some repeat students and some students that have not been exposed to any of these skills. The results of a recent assessment of 200 students on a standardized exam revealed that BMC students scored higher, but still below level of proficiency. LITS would like to discuss curricular and/or non-curricular options for enhancing students’ instructional literacy proficiency. CC brainstormed different ideas and recommended that LITS attend a Chairs Meeting and the General Faculty meeting to further discuss the proposal and to increase awareness of the program.

**Digital Competencies Program** - Gina Siesing and several other staff members attended meeting to discuss Digital Competencies. Gina explained that since the Digital Task Force finished work in 2014, LITS and the College were charged with ensuring that students develop the digital competencies needed to be successful at Bryn Mawr and beyond. The Educational Technology Services team updated CC members on their work to date. Working with faculty, students, LITS, LILAC, Libraries and Computing, the team has identified particular skills that students need and have developed ways to build on those skills. In addition, looking at ways to help students articulate and demonstrate their competencies to various audiences. The team is working on ways for students to demonstrate competency and showcase their talents both at BMC and to potential future employers.

**Proposal for quarter unit course** - Kirsten O’Beirne briefly discussed offering .25 unit course. She explained that LILAC offers a ½ unit course around summer funding. However, if an International students wishes to do this and is paid, they have to use their OPT (Optional Practical Training) to cover it. Patti Lausch proposes that we offer CPT (Curricular Practical Training) to International students, that way they could do in multiple semesters, and would have nothing to do with funding. Kirsten proposes that students can do it for two summers, but only get half a credit, not whole credit. Kirsten explained that the faculty does not allow us to offer quarter credits; this change would have to go to the Faculty for two votes. The discussion was tabled to be discussed at a future meeting.

**Praxis proposal –** Nell Anderson, Kelly Strunk, and Jim Martin introduce the Cohort Praxis Independent Study Model, which has been piloted in Jim Martin’s and Monique Scott’s classes. The committee agrees that this is a promising model for accommodating the growing number of students interested in doing Praxis independent study courses.

**Undergraduate Research Apprentice Draft proposal** - received from David Karen regarding opportunities for students to do research with faculty. Students would apply to work with a faculty member, the faculty member makes their selection and the students would be engaged in a faculty’s research project. The students would receive credit for the semester and the faculty member would receive assistance on his or her work. The committee approved the idea and discussed logistics, such as how to make these opportunities available and known to students and how to number this for registration purposes. Committee requested that David Karen bring a formal proposal to Curriculum Committee and readdress the issue next year.

**Select Scholars** program proposal - Mary Osirim explained that Boston University program in Public Health has a special program that admits students to the MPH program in their junior year. Mary is preparing to sign an agreement with Boston University. The committee agrees.

**Liberal Arts Consortium for Online Learning pilot –** Anjali Thapar discussed pilot, in which institutions collaborate to be able to offer resources that might not be offered in the student’s home institution. Interested students would participate remotely with other students in the class at the same time; would register as independent study with BMC faculty. Committee agreed to see how pilot goes before proceeding further.

**Repeat Course Policy** - Curriculum Committee approved that students who receive a grade of 1.0, 1.3 or 1.7 be permitted to repeat the course after receiving permission of the Special Cases Committee. The student will not receive unit credit for the second attempt and there will be a limit of 2 courses. This proposal was subsequently approved by the faculty.

**Giving and listing of degree distinctions:**

- Registrar proposed to bump up grade point averages from 3.4 to 3.5 for cum laude, 3.6 to 3.7 for magna cum laude, and 3.8 to 3.9 for summa cum laude and eliminate the top ten rule. Since this is a faculty rule, two votes will be necessary to approve. This discussion was begun in the committee and then widened to include the advisory committee and finally the full faculty at the May meeting.

Student Feedback:The student representative to the Curriculum Committee, Ananya Kumar reported that she met December 27, 2016 with members of 16 student leaders on campus and explained that the Curriculum Committee was examining graduate distinctions. She added that she asked the students two questions:

1. How do they feel about the listing of degree distinctions in the program? Their response was that it was disturbing to have them listed. The students added that they felt the current distinctions were too high.
2. How would they want to want to change the distinctions? Their response was that they felt that there were different distinctions by department and that each department had different ways of grading. They felt that they are in favor of having more uniformity across the departments.

**Other:**

**Collaboration with CAP** - Committee decided that they would like to see the formal collaboration with CAP continue and be strengthened as it is necessary to have a venue where voices come together for discussion.

**CAP Proposals** - Committee members were assigned review of CAP proposals to present to Curriculum Committee for discussion and follow-up with CAP. Committee member will ask two broad questions and specific questions for each proposal they receive from CAP.

Archeology-Michael Shulz

Cities-Melissa

Cities (2)-Jody Cohen

Computer Science-Michael Shulz

English-Jody Cohen

Environmental Studies (2)-Yonglin Jiang

Math-Michael Shulz

Physics-Anjali Thapar

Spanish-Anjali Thapar

**Consideration of CAP-Curriculum Collaboration**: Anjali Thapar and Jody Cohen met with David Karen as Chair of CAP to consider how the committees’ collaboration worked this year and to raise the possibility of combining the two committees. This was brought to the last faculty meeting of the year, and discussion will continue in the fall of 2017.

**Assessment of New Requirement** – Committee members began to assess the Modes of Inquiry. Jody Cohen, Anjali Thapar, and Judy Balthazar took the lead on this, along with Bill Malachowski’s consultation as needed. Anjali and Jody met with Richard Barry and Lindsey Dever from Institutional Research to discuss current data and different ways of running the data to optimize our ability to assess the Modes’ impact.

**Second page of Teacher Evaluation form**- Last year committee approved that the second page of the evaluations be done electronically in the spring in every class. Students will be asked to complete the evaluation while in the classroom on their own device or if they do not have a device with them, allow them to complete the evaluation on their own by the last day of classes. (First page will remain paper version). This year committee considered the low return rate.

Anjali will meet with Richard and Lindsey and explain that the Modes of Inquiry Analysis data is misleading. She will ask to add the zero in the data and rerun or ask them to provide the percentage of students that answered N/A.

**Future Topics**:

* Assessment of New Requirements
* Diversity Requirement – The committee didn’t get to this yet.
* Curriculum/CAP Blending Relationships
* Move ahead with faculty discussion of UG Degree Distinctions
* Caps on Writing Intensive/Attentive Courses (Add to agenda for fall, invite Gail Hemmeter)
* Making ENG 126 a requirement