

2018-2019

Curriculum Committee Summary 2018-19

Judy's bullet points with Joann's additional notes below.

Major contributions and accomplishments

- Changed Commencement Participation Policy (#1 below)
- Changed Foreign Language Policy for non-native speakers of English (#2 below)
- Contributed to the Middle States self-evaluation
- Contributed to CAP's consideration of new faculty lines

Small tasks accomplished

- Officially approved INDT 410 (possible names: Mentorship or Directed Research)
- Approved our participation in LACOL
- Considered but did not approve proposal to recognize minors completed at Swarthmore (#4 below)
- Officially approved Christina Rose's Digital Storytelling course (suggest it be E-Sem in future)
- Dance proposal for tenure-track position
- Summer Middle Eastern Studies program as a pilot program

Important topics discussed at length:

- The first-semester experience and the pros and cons of a shadow grade policy (#7 below)
- The new essentialism and the implications for our curriculum and community (#12 below)
- The foreign language departments' concerns about advising.
- Appropriate relationship between CC and CAP (#6 below)
- The role of the Curriculum Committee in Faculty self-governance

Discussions begun but still incomplete, to be taken up in the fall of 2019

- Lead a discussion with the Faculty of shadow grades, followed by a Shadow Grade Policy Proposal (#7 below)
- Policies and practices regarding final exams and other final work, deadlines and extensions.
- Revisions to Greek Honors (Cum Laude etc) (see below under #3)
- Grading practices / grade inflation
- The Independent Majors Program (see #5 below)
- Information literacy proposal from LITS
- Diversity requirement (see below #9)
- Other revisions to the Curricular Rules of the Faculty (#3 below)

1. **Walking Rule** The following options were presented to the faculty and the first option was voted into place starting May 2019.

#1 Students can walk if on track to graduate by December after senior year, as of January 20th (start if 8th semester)

#2 Students can walk (end of senior year), if on track to graduate by May senior year as of September 30th.

#3 Current policy.

2. **Foreign Language Requirement:** The committee accepted the English Department's request to remove the option of completing the requirement with English Literature. The consensus was that students should complete a language other than their native language. The Faculty approved the change.

3. **Revisions to Faculty Rules:** The committee discussed the following but did not bring changes to the Faculty to vote on.

#1- the Registrar informed the committee that in order to be in compliance with the Department of Education, **each course needs to require 12 hours of work**. Current Faculty rules indicate that each course requires only 10 hours of work. we need to define how many hours' classes meet.

#2 The Dean of Studies recommended that we revise the rules regarding the **declaration of the major** to indicate that a student will be accepted into the major with approval of major advisor and no student may choose a major if their average is below 2.0.

#3 The Committee discussed revisions to the **Standard of Work** with the understanding that the Committee on Academic Standing would take responsibility for bringing the revisions to the Faculty for a vote.

#4 **Summa Cum Laude revision**. Brought to faculty for discussion, no consensus was reached.

4. **Minoring at Swarthmore-** Committee discussed students who want to officially minor at Swarthmore. E.g., students who complete the Arabic minor at Swarthmore. No decision was made. **Arabic minor** - Suggested department bring a minor proposal to committee.

5. **Independent Major** – Raima Evan is asking for feedback and direction from Curriculum Committee. Linda-Susan will invite committee to a meeting in fall.

6. **CAP/CC Collaboration:** Committee decided to have discussion first meeting of semester. Committee to explain what topics committee is working on, create full end-of-year report, and include suggestions of topics to be addressed in future.

7. **Credit/NC Policy-** Committee decided to hold discussion on Shadowed Grade Initiative for next semester due to other issues facing College at this time.

8. **Middle States Review:** Committee charged with assisting with collection of materials and some narrative writing-on-going.

9. **Diversity Requirement:** Committee discussed and agreed to add to agenda.

10. **CARLA group:** Pedro Marengo reported that this group is asking faculty think about how courses promote diversity when courses are being conceived. Faculty need to look at how it will advance goal of diversity and inclusion, more policy issues need to think about and it is worthy of our discussion.

11. **Data Science Initiative:** Mary explained that the College received a gift of five-million dollars from a donor to develop a Data Science Program. Mary added that they are convening a Steering Committee and have asked for volunteers. Mary added that if it will be created as a minor, it would need to be brought to this committee.

12. **New Essentialism:** Discussed the belief that White faculty members not equipped to teach classes on race. Discussion to be continued.

13. **Elections:** Committee discussed election of new Chair for 2020-2021. Linda-Susan will inform Nominations Committee that need to find a replacement for Joel Schlosser, should include Social Science faculty. It was decided that all members need to be present to elect Chair. Roberta Ricci, Monica Chander and May Cheng are continuing next year.