MINUTES OF THE UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATIONAL POLICIES COMMITTEE

April 27th, 2015

PRESENT: Vice-Chair Kathy Porter, Molly Metherd, Elise Wong, Chris Ray, Sam Lind, Elena Escalara, Steve Miller, and Steve Bachofer

ABSENT: Chair Robert Gorsch (with notice), Sue Fallis (with notice), Jose Feito (with notice)

Location: Filippi Conference Room

The meeting was called to order at 3:35

The first order of business was a proposal to increase academic credit assigned to ART 195 from .25 to .50

Guest: Peter Freund

ART 195 is currently being offered as a course in the major for .25 credit but the faculty in the department feel that the .25 academic credit is not eliciting commitment from the students. They also feel that increasing the academic credit would allow faculty to increase the academic rigor and it would increase the commitment from the students, thus raising the quantity and quality of the work. The department faculty would like to increase the credit to 1.0 but are restricted by their annual course allotment of 1.0 unit courses. Offering ART 195 at 1.0 units would preclude them from offering another 1.0 credit course. Peter stated that other than the amount of credit attached to the course, there would be no other changes, and did not include a course syllabus as part of the course materials.

The vote to approve the increase the academic credit assigned to ART 195:
7 yes, 1 no, 0 abstain

The next order of business was a proposal for a minor in Cinematic Arts.

Guests: Peter Freund, Ed Tywoniak, Ellen Rigsby

The Cinematic Arts minor would involve a dual administrative structure with two faculty Peter Freund, and Dan Leopard, from ART and COMM respectively, serving as the program administrators. In addition, the program would have a steering committee involving the two previously mentioned program administrators, and Ed Tywoniak (Comm) and Anna Novakov (ART).

Discussion centered on whether or not Art majors and/or Communications majors could minor in Cinematic Arts (It was our understanding that students cannot minor in the same discipline as their major). If not, one alternative is that a concentration be created within ART and/or COMM to allow those majors to earn credit in this
area. Leslie Welty was brought in to clarify our questions about students minoring and majoring in the same discipline. The discussion shifted to catalog language and the proposers suggested that catalog language about the Cinematic Arts minor would be included in both ART and COMM.

The vote to approve the proposed minor in Cinematic Arts: 6 yes, 1 no, 1 abstain.

The third order of business was a proposal to grant permanent status to MATH 103
Guest: Jim Sauerberg

Jim reviewed the rationale for this class. MATH 103 was part of the accepted 2014 proposal to reform the upper division Math sequence of courses. This course would essentially replace MATH 112 and would serve as a complement to MATH 111.

The vote to the proposal to grant permanent status to MATH 103: 8 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain

The final order of business was to revisit the Core Curriculum Committee’s proposal for re-designation.
Guest: Jim Sauerberg

Jim began the discussion by stating that the current cycle of assessment of the core curriculum will be over soon and the final reports are due 9/1/15. He also referred to a March 6th letter from the WASC team suggesting that our current forms of assessment are inadequate. The subsequent conversation involved how much assessment should occur between now and 2018 when the WASC team will visit, at what level the assessment is most appropriate (assessment at the course level, the department level, or across the learning outcomes), and who is responsible for assessment. We discussed a need for assessment at the learning outcome level for WASC and one that involves course redesignation. The proposal before us only deals with that latter.

We then discussed the relative merits of the CCC proposal for redesignation and compared them to an alternative proposal, developed by a working group within the UEPC. We then voted on each proposal.

The vote for the CCC redesignation proposal was 0 yes, 6 no, 3 abstain (one member not in attendance voted before the meeting)

The vote for the UEPC redesignation proposal was 6 yes, 0 no, 3 abstain (one member not in attendance voted before the meeting)

We then felt it was important to forward the concerns of those who abstained to the Academic Senate.
The meeting adjourned at 5:35 (but it felt a lot later than that...)

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Miller