

**Academic Policy Council**  
**February 22, 2019**  
**Mahar 467**

**Minutes**

Present: Eve Clark, Pat Russo, Sue Fettes, Mary McCune, Daniel Truong, Victoria Chiu, Rameen Mohammadi

**I. Approval of the Agenda.**

Motion to amend the agenda to add the Transfer Credit memo. Moved and seconded. Approved.

**II. Approval of February 8 Minutes**

Motion to approve and seconded. Approved.

**III. Chair's Report**

The Chair updated Council on her likely continuation in the position in the coming academic year. However, this is still contingent upon her teaching load next year as she cannot continue to teach five classes and chair Council.

**IV. Old Business**

**A) CSS Writing Plan Changes, Revisited**

Clark presented a summary of what has transpired regarding this issue. APC was told that nothing in the Cinema & Screen Studies major was changing when Council was presented with the Writing Plan. The General Education Council approved the new Writing Plan even as it was noted by GEC members that the new Writing Plan will add six hours to the existing major if students do not choose the right courses.

Energetic discussion ensued regarding Councils' mandates, how to alert students to potential issues with the Writing Plan, and whether Cinema & Screen Studies will need to revise their major. Eventually it was decided that the Provost's Office needs to stop the proposal from going forward in light of the fact that the Department did make a change to its curriculum without having gone through proper channels.

Discussion was tabled for a visit from Dr. Karol Cooper from the Department of English and resumed following her exit.

Clark will raise this issue with FAEB and have them address the need for a procedure that ensures that Councils are checking for impacts on the major when they approve changes to the Writing Plan and vice versa. Mohammadi will write to LaLonde (GE), Schaber (CSS) and Clark (APC) about the problem in this specific matter. It will be underscored that GEC needs to ensure that a revised Writing Plan is not, in fact, resulting in a change to a program.

## **B) Computer Science BA Revision**

Clark followed up with Doug Lea of Computer Science regarding the phrase “project-based course.” Lea confirmed that, indeed, not all 400-level course are project based. Clark responded that, in that case, the department would have to create a list of courses which *are* project-based to which Lea replied that they have this covered with the phrase “advisor approved.” He underscored they have been operating this way since 1993 and sees no reason to change. They do not like to “update,” he asserted, which this secretary finds an odd response coming from a leader in a field given to innovation, upgrades and “updates.”

Clark then tried to explain the concept of “reporting out” changes to lists and to ensure Lea that he would not have to go through a program change every time the list changed. Lea’s return volley: the catalog does not list approved writing courses so why should his department have to list “project-based” courses? Mohammadi remained curious as to which 400-level courses in Computer Science are not project-based.

In the end it was moved and seconded to have the list added to the major (both BA and BS). Approved.

## **C) Computer Science BS Revision**

Discussion regarding whether to allow the “under advisement” language to remain in the revised major. The Department does not want MAT 102 to count but does want, for example, AST 100 to be able to count. As other programs are using such language, it is probable that this will be acceptable in this case as well. APC will revisit the language issue in a future meeting.

## **D) English BA Revision**

Karol Cooper provided background and clarification for some of the questions APC had raised regarding proposed changes to the major. The Department is attempting to make the major more relevant to students based upon assessment materials and discussions with current majors and incoming students.

Russo noted that the 30 credit major is low and wondered if students typically take more than 30 credits in English. Cooper responded that they do. McCune questioned how the time periods were selected and it was agreed that these are arbitrary and that periodization is debated in both English and History.

Clark explained what the Council and FA need going forward: the side-by-side and concise justification for changing the major.

Mohammadi expressed concern, voiced in the previous APC discussion of the major change, that diversity is not shown in the titles of the courses in the categories prior to 1900. Cooper conceded this point and discussed the ways in

which PhD training in English leads to “vague” and/or “canonical” titles. The titles do not always convey, though, what is happening in the courses.

Discussion ensued regarding the Writing Plan and its use of the phrase “literature course.” It was suggested that Cooper may want to doublecheck with General Education that the Writing Plan does not need to be updated as well.

After Cooper’s departure it was moved and seconded to approve the program changes. Approved.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary McCune