

## MINUTES

### University Curriculum Committee for Liberal Education (UCCLE)

December 2, 2009

2:00 - 3:15p.m. - 230 Student Services Building

- Present:** Marlene Preston, Sheila Carter-Tod, Alan McDaniel, Scott Renneckar, Mary Ann Lewis, Bo Hart, Rachel Holloway, Elizabeth Fine, Donna Cassell Ratcliffe
- Guests Present:** Karen Strickler, Ray Van Dyke, Carolyn Meier, Laura Dulaney, Susanna Rinehart
- Absent:** Yonsenia White, Daniel Wubah, Lisa McNair, Joe Sirgy, Leon Geyer (for Cindy Wood), Shane McCarty, Jim Collier, Mark Pitt (for Kurt Hoffman)

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - The meeting was called to order by Marlene Preston, Chair.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** –

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

3. **CLE AREA SUBCOMMITTEE**

**Recommendations for Second Reading** – The following course proposal(s) were distributed to UCCLE members electronically for review at the November 4, 2009 meeting. The following action was taken at this December 2, 2009 meeting.

HORT 2134, Plants and Greenspaces in Urban Communities, Area 3, effective Spring 2010

- A motion was made and seconded to approve HORT 2134, Plants and Greenspaces in Urban Communities, Area 3, effective Spring 2010. Motion carried.

**Recommendations for First Reading** – The following course proposal(s) were distributed to UCCLE members electronically for review.

AHRM 2304, Family Financial Management, Area 3 and Area 5, effective Fall 2010

- Proposal to approve for first reading, AHRM 2304, Family Financial Management, Area 3 and Area 5, effective Fall 2010.

AHRM 2404, Consumer Rights, Area 3 and Area 7, effective Fall 2010

- Proposal to approve for first reading, AHRM 2404, Consumer Rights, Area 3 and Area 7, effective Fall 2010.

ENSC 1015-1016, Foundations of Environmental Science, Area 4, effective Spring 2010

- Proposal to approve for first reading, ENSC 1015-1016, Foundations of Environmental Science, Area 4, effective Spring 2010.

ENSC 1115-1116, Foundations of Environmental Science Laboratory, Area 4, effective Spring 2010

- Proposal to approve for first reading, ENSC 1115+1116, Foundations of Environmental Science Laboratory, Area 4, effective Spring 2010.

HORT 4794, Medicinal Plants and Herbs, Area 7, effective Fall 2010

- Proposal to approve for first reading, HORT 4794, Medicinal Plants and Herbs, Area 7, effective Fall 2010.

4. **HUMAN DIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY UPDATE** – **Susanna Rinehart**

Susanna Rinehart gave the committee a report on the progress of the Human Diversity and Community. The diversity requirement came from the work of the Task Force on Race and the Institution, the University Strategic Plan, and the Student Government Association Resolution to name a few. Undergraduates have a desire to have more attention paid to cross cultural competencies and diversity in the curriculum. It was recognized that Virginia Tech undergraduates had a weakness entering in the workforce compared to peer institutions. There is

a desire for undergraduates to find ways throughout the curriculum to strengthen not only the cross-cultural competencies but also global competencies. The work over the course of this year started with talking about why this is important, then moved to what the learning goals of such of a curriculum would be and then we began to think about the structure. That is where we are now with what is it we want to recommend coming out of this working group, working on methods of assessment and any requirement would carry with it a need for faculty development both in terms of pedagogy and who can teach these courses or who is already teaching diversity focused courses. Where we have come to is looking at a combination of both doing the preliminary structuring and building of a proposed new course that would be a common course completely focused on diversity related issues and cross-cultural competencies. At the same time we will be looking to see if some of the suggested learning outcomes either already exist in currently offered courses or whether faculty and/or departments have courses that with slight tweaking or modifications could incorporate the learning outcomes into those courses. This is where we could see the spreading or integrating of the learning outcomes across the curriculum. We have looked at a number of ways to broaden and begin the process. The connection to the CLE could be having an academic home for a new course such as the one proposed or perhaps a relationship in some way to Area 7.

## **5. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEES**

- CLE Connections –
  - Faculty survey – The survey has been sent out. It was suggested that we send a reminder out before the break.
  - Website – The CLE Connections group will be looking at the UCCLE website next.
  - Student survey – The student survey is still in the works. Kate has been working with our SGA representatives on the student survey that will be going out to students at the beginning of the spring semester. This survey will also be electronic and will have a big marketing campaign to encourage students to participate. The goal is to get a 25% response rate from students. It was suggested that we add a question about the Common Book and diversity to the survey.
- UCCLE Membership, Processes, Policies –
  - Update - Resolution to revise the UCCLE membership – *UCCLE Resolution 2009-2010 / Resolution to Update the Membership of the UCCLE* was presented to and passed at the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Polices (CUSP). It will now go to University Council.
  - Policies and process for changing or withdrawing a course from CLE – a draft is in the works for a policy and process for changing or withdrawing a course from the CLE. The draft will be presented at a future meeting. The question was raised as to what the Charge of the UCCLE is and whether or not changing or withdrawing courses is part of it. This will be looked into further.
- February symposium –  
Sheila Carter-Tod reported that she intends to talk to Susan before break and will send information out by email to the committee.

## **6. OTHER BUSINESS**

At the November meeting Marlene reminded the committee that we have not elect a Vice-Chair and ask for those willing to serve to please contact her. Sheila Carter-Tod contacted Marlene and has agreed to be nominated. Because several people were unable to attend the meeting it was decided to ask for additional nominations and then to vote electronically. An email will be sent soon asking for additional nominations and then we will vote electronically shortly thereafter.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:58p.m.

Submitted by,  
Karen W. Strickler  
Recording Secretary