November 1, 2005, 11:00 AM, UW2 327

**Present:** Steve Collins, Kevin Laverty, Alan Leong, Carol Leppa, Kathleen Martin, Clark Olson and Bill Seaburg

**Guests:** Tom Bellamy and Carol Zander

**Areas of Knowledge: Action on recommendation from Curriculum Committee.**

The EC reviewed the changes to current UWB policy on the Areas of Knowledge submitted by the Curriculum Committee and were in agreement with the changes made regarding consistency with UW policy on curricular guidelines. The change that will be consistent with UWS, UWB will no longer give VLPA credit for first-year foreign language courses and composition. VLPA credit will only be given to 200-level or higher numbered foreign language courses.

**CUSP Charter: Action on language regarding election of FOCUS members and final approval of the charter.**

**Motion**

A motion to accept the CUSP Charter contingent on modifications regarding election of FOCUS Members was approved unanimously. FOCUS members will be nominated by the voting faculty who have taught university studies courses during the academic year in which the election is held, and elected by the full voting faculty of UWB.

**Charge to FOCUS: Action on extent and manner of EC guidance in the charge to FOCUS.**

The EC deliberated on the structure of the Discovery Core and its relationship to the other elements of lower division. Guiding its discussion was a commitment to ensuring that the curriculum is consistent to the greatest extent possible with the planning parameters and recommendations from the GFO/EC and various working groups. In practical terms, this means that the framework must balance several objectives:

- To create learning communities while offering flexibility for students to move along pathways that suit their individual needs and circumstances.
- To provide both a strong interdisciplinary foundation and opportunities for students to develop skills they need as prerequisites for advancing into particular programs and majors.

The EC determined that the objectives of lower division would best be achieved through a 20-credit Discovery Core consisting of a ten-credit course in the fall quarter of the freshman year, five-credit course in winter quarter, and a two-credit portfolio and three-credit freshman interest group course in spring quarter. This framework is to be specified in the charge given to FOCUS. The EC further recommends that FOCUS report the draft of its lower division curriculum to the faculty in a faculty forum to be scheduled in January 2006.

**Motion**
The EC accepts the charge to FOCUS contingent on the specification of the following framework for the lower division curriculum:

- The Discovery Core will consist of 20 total credits, the distribution of which will be 10 credits in Autumn Quarter, 5 credits in Winter Quarter and 2-credits/3-credits in Spring Quarter.
- Included in the core is a 2-credit portfolio reflection and evaluation course taken after completion of 15 credits of core courses and prior to entry into the major, along with a 3-credit University Studies Interest Group course.
- The core will be designed so that students can receive credit for courses in at least two of the three areas of knowledge (VLPA, I&S, NW) in the UW distribution requirements.

The motion carried unanimously.

**Motion**

The EC recommends that FOCUS present the results of its preliminary plans to a faculty forum in January 2006. The motion carried unanimously.

Some pending agenda items for EC to consider:

- The EC agreed in principle to the proposed distribution requirements, but a final decision still needs to be made.
- The EC will revisit the 90 + 90 model for lower and upper division after it receives further information and guidance from Tom Bellamy.

The next EC meeting will be November 15, 2005.

Minutes submitted by Barbara Van Sant