

CALS Curriculum Committee Minutes
Curriculum Revision Group
10 November 2009

Meeting began at 12 pm

Attending: Stier (chair), Paustian, Bednarek, Culbertson, Howell, Kurtz, Scheufele, Grummer; Pfatteicher (*ex officio*)
New student rep: Shiva Eidi (Biochem)
In attendance: Jocelyn Milner

Howell moved approval of Oct minutes, 2nd by Paustian, approved unanimously.

Stier introduced objectives of today's agenda. Howell indicated desire for a BA degree option in LA. Some LA students don't meet requirements for accredited program and currently go through natural resources degree but they're not necessarily interested in science (has 10 credits biology). BA degree has different science requirements

Milner indicated a BA could be added but not in context of the BS change. A new authorization (from the Regents) would be required to pursue a BA in CALS.

Discussed balancing achievement of timeline with shared governance; acknowledged process may take longer than planned.

Discussion on "4 x 40" idea. Concern about reception of the "40" associated with the extracurricular activities. 4 x 40 would be a marketing terminology, perhaps use 3 x 40?

Electives: Free or w/in a program? This is an open question.

Why have 40 credit free electives—what's the philosophy?

How does the 40 credits for majors meet w current requirements? Varies by major. Natural Sciences option may pose biggest issue as degree requirements are sometimes integral with the major (Microbiology maps well w new proposal). Seems to be a student-centered approach as students select electives to meet their goals.

Some depts. may require more than 40 credit for their discipline—need to find this out.
Biochem and Gen ~ 60. Is it worthwhile for depts. to consider their requirements?

CALS has high credit load, high time to degree compared to much of campus. CALS avg is 4.7 yrs, campus is 4.1

Reviewed UW Gen Ed and CALS reqts

-CALS reqrs min Math 112, campus allows 7 different math classes for this requirement (there is no "college algebra" *per se*, 3 classes exist that are titled "Algebra")

-QRB: Mostly NOT math; most students satisfy thru Econ 101 (AAE 215 not count as AAE never asked for it to count)

-Natural Science : Mostly math, statistics, computer science, not including physical OR Biological science OR Chemistry
-We could ask campus to allow 10 cr Biol (e.g., intro Bio sequences) to satisfy the natural science requirement

Humanities: CALS requires 6 credits; L&S requires 6 credits humanities OR literature OR arts. CALS could allow same, allows us to count some upper level language courses that are literature-based

Ethnic studies: Propose “as is”

To consider

- 1) Require freshman to take intro to CALS (1 cr)---national data show students retain/better GPA if take intro course
- 2) 3 more credits---Intl? Econ? Business? Other?

Discussion to keep 3 credits Econ and 3 credits Soc Sci requirement vs 3 or 6 credits Social Sci

Some depts. may have > 40 credits for major requirements, closer to 50 or 60

Ability to double major and transfer is important, the 40 credit electives seems to allow this pretty well, though some depts. that have majors of 50-60 credit requirements may take longer if student transfers

Outcomes for changes:

Reduce non-biology Gen Ed credits from 38 to ~30 (total gen ed requirements still ~40); almost half of rest of Gen Ed is math and chemistry which is preparatory for most CALS degrees

Reduce 124 total credits required to 120

Discussion as to opening up Biology requirements to other than the current 3 options. Might be difficult to achieve 10 credits w 3 courses and complicates advising. Social science-minded students might be less interested if forced into one of these 3 sequences. CALS in past has allowed depts. to change these types of requirements, complicating tracking towards progress to degree.

Discussed having committee members help as “ambassadors” to departments to ask for feedback; decided to delay this or have the teaching deans and Stier function in this regard.

Lost quorum at 1:25 as members left to teach

Adjourned 1:30 pm

Appendix: Dean Pfatteicher is on the agenda of the next department chairs meeting at end of the month, she can ask chairs to bring the idea to their departments. Department curriculum committees can then discuss and get back to us in December. The CALS curriculum committee can rework the proposal and give it to departments for review in January with feedback due by Feb 1.