

Minutes
CALC Curriculum Committee
Degree Revision Program
9 February 2010

Approved minutes from Jan. 5

Welcomed Rebekah Verbeten as new student member, acknowledged Eidi Shivo no longer on committee due to class conflicts

Guests from AAE: Shapiro, Hueth, Jones

Shapiro (AAE): -gave handout indicating AAE concerns RE proposal

1) Biology reqt

- a. 8 cr will discourage transfers from L&S, other college; L&S transfers are large component of college
- b. Proposed change would reduce AAE majors who mostly focus in Ag Bus mgt—students will go or stay w L&S or SoHE which has similar major (Consumer Affairs & Personal Finance)
- c. Strong demand in natural resources and L&S interested in AAE---AAE curriculum revision was blocked because college curriculum was being revised
- d. Biology reqt will hamper growth potential from social science students—have biology majors peaked?
- e. Why add biology reqts on to a social science student

-Otherwise, dept supported degree proposal. Question is how much science needed? They have chem. and physical science requirement already. This would require students to take 2 more sci courses. This reduces ability of students to take business courses.

-Reviewed history of biology requirements for proposed degree: had 5 cr biol and 5 cr physical sci w/ stricter list of biology courses. Compromise made for social sci depts. to have fewer physical sci credits and a larger list of potential biology courses. L&S requires 3 cr biological sci, we needed to differentiate.

Shapiro/Bruce: CALS Board of Visitors wants students to be literate in business and econ and teamwork

-LSC distinguishes itself from L&S by their courses. Need to distinguish at college, major reqts. Also in favor of having less biology, but supported compromise of 5 to 8.

-Is purpose of biological sci reqt to ensure students have literacy of biology? AAE not like specific course reqts but favor over 8 cr reqt. Bohnoff pointed out many of the 68 courses for biology would likely count as courses AAE wants. AAE disagrees. AAE wants 3 cr biology which is what college now requires.

Shapiro: AAE has intl, natl resources, and business requirements that are differentiated from all other students.

Sebastian: Discussion last week: specific courses vs general list; 5 or 8 credits. Are these independent?

Shapiro: why 5 instead of 3?

Responses:

- Most biol courses are already 5 cr.

- Why would we assemble a degree with less science than L&S?
- L&S BS requires 6 cr biol and 6 cr physical sci.

Shapiro: have we surveyed employers? Sarah-going on now.

Shapiro: AAE wants to launch program to attract L&S students.

Responses

- Whats already in the AAE program that will satisfy biology credits?
- AAE reqts likely will be met by biological sciences requirements and vice-versa
- 70% CALS are biology oriented; social sci students need to be able to speak same language/communicate as biology students.
- If we put all biol reqts in majors then those students have no flexibility.
- Ric asked Bruce if they will have 80 cr to get ag bus mgt done or should they have 30 cr of electives. Answer: AAE currently has 100 cr required (campus, college, major), students have 24 electives.
- New degree proposal allows overlap of college and major requirements, currently cannot double count.
- Allowing double counting will improve flexibility. If L&S already requires 6 biological sci credits, wouldn't those L&S students be able to complete the 8 cr required for biology courses? Dietram: won't work for BA students.
- List of international courses we'd draw from would include many that have biological sci credits as they would be CALS only.
- We'll need to decide how restrictive we want biology courses to be in order to accommodate transfers.
- We already do a lot of accommodation via course substitutions. AP credit in biology is a campus thing.

Shapiro: Why do social science students need 5 more credits vs L&S BA degrees?

Answer: Shapiro argued for it already as he said AAE students take courses in biology type areas e.g., natural resources

Dietram: What are competencies that science students need? Argument cuts both ways.

Tim recapped discussion: orig proposal was 5 cr of specific biol courses. Science depts. liked.

SS depts. wanted flexibility. Francisco: Gen and Biochem wanted broader list, but some committee members didn't want all 68 courses to count. Robin: students need basic understanding of biology.

Ric: Discussed why a biology student should have more biology vs social sci. Is 8 cr biology really bad for AAE majors? Is a need to preserve large elective set more important? Shapiro-8 cr biology discourages transfer students as they would have to pick up 2 more courses. Discussed seniors from L&S who take his course who have not yet fulfilled their biology reqts.

Sebastian: understands transfer student concern. Philosophically, consider why transfer student would choose CALS and why freshman choose CALS? Biology interest—not just group of facts but need to communicate and understand how biology facts are generated. Bohnoff: CALS dealt w Pollen book issue because of our biology understanding.

-Stier asked AAE to review all biological science courses to see if they would fit with what an AAE student would take anyway but also double count as biology credit.

Discussion about allowing intermediate and advanced level courses to count (the “B” reqt).

Sarah-there are over 300-500 courses that fit. We'd have to review each year if we do a subset.

Bohnoff: only need to do those outside of CALS, botany, zoology. Sarah: some CALS courses may not fit.

AAE: there's always areas that our students could benefit from more exposure; adding biology requirement is arbitrary for CALS students. We want different things for our students, want different things for different students. Tim: his concern is "me too" syndrome. Shapiro: minimize college reqts, allow depts. to make their own. Robin: Most of her students take social sciences as electives, won't take biology
Shapiro: Suggest animation on front page "click here" to see about degree change-Sarah says request has been submitted. Currently link is in e-cals.

Moved on to other agenda items after about 1 hr.

Item 1(2): BSE request for edit.

-8 cr biol fundamentals should include all CALS courses.---after discussion today, he wants to review w Engineering

-Foreign language: Engineering does not count deficiency credits, etc. (see his email). CALS can use foreign language to enhance international opportunities for students and facilitate transfer students because they are coming in with it. We should allow foreign language to count for humanities. Our college thereby discourages transfer students from L&S.

Robin: Language is not humanities.

Dietram: difference between lower level language skills course; upper level course different (already counts for humanity/lit course reqt).

Robin: many students already have AP placement in foreign language; some students transfer to CALS because we don't have foreign language reqt

Sarah: could we argue w campus that foreign language could count for Comm B? colleges can interpret the campus reqt differently. Why would we seek to count foreign language as humanity vs communication. Robin: Our students need to be able to write.

-Could we have foreign language count for the intl reqt?

Sarah: Our committee will make final changes March 2 for APC and college to vote. Sarah will make a change for March 2.

-Biology issue: Ric concerned we don't have consensus on econ and biology reqt.

Conversation: if not requiring specific biology course, why require specific econ/social sci course. Business literacy discussion w BOV and Molly was business literacy, not econ; they focused not on econ, accounting, etc., but on leadership, communication, teamwork---how business operates, not finance. Anything we can remove from college requirements to free up space is good. Robin: many students who might transfer to CALS are put off by econ. Sarah: majors can include business or econ course reqt.

Dietram: remembered discussion of having 6 cr social sci (currently have 3 cr econ and 3 cr social sci). Robin: that's OK. Sarah: AAE not likely to feel having 6 cr social sci would allay their concern about having students take econ. Dietram and Gilliam-Daniel: Agreed, why are we picking one? Why should a bench scientist have to take an econ course? If broadening biology instead of specifying courses, we also need to broaden social science requirements.

Ric: Students need to be able to understand business section of newspaper. Bohnoff: Econ 101 and AAE 215 don't fulfill this now.

Sarah: Broaden to any business or econ? Not necessarily a good path.

Ric: Econ/bus. Is impt. Dietram: Why pick one area---not full agreement of specific importances. AAE argument to get students into that major could be an argument every major could make, which violates spirit of minimal requirements for transfers, etc.

Governance rules: we need all faculty vote on proposal. March 23, 3 pm, assuming we get thru all other governance votes. We HAVE to have a quorum, 50% + CALS faculty, or we need to have sufficient body that no one objects and asks for quorum. We'll need committee to encourage attendance. The other option might be to if we get letters from all 19 depts could work if all depts. agree on same set of requirements, but its unlikely to happen and doesn't necessarily fulfill spirit of full debate, as discussion heard in one department, and desires for amendments, wouldn't be heard by other departments.

Motion to adjourn (Paustian), seconded by Schuefele.

Meeting adjourned at 1:40 pm