

Report of the Activities of the
Graduate Curriculum Committee
2006-2007

Committee members were: Dwight Burlingame, Philanthropy (fall); Susan Hyatt, Anthropology; Tim Lyons, Philosophy; John Parrish-Sprowl, Communication Studies (spring); Robert Rebein, English; and Nancy Marie Robertson, History [chair].

Marianne Wokeck attended as the SLA representative to the IU Graduate Council (ex officio).

Brian Vargas attended as the Agenda Council Representative (ex officio).

David Ford represented the Dean's Office (ex officio).

Becky Renollet served as Administrative Assistant.

The Committee met twice (September 29 and January 19) and conducted other business by email. All members of the committee attended or provided useful feedback by e-mail. The approval of courses was without dissent (with some suggestions to accommodate the guidelines of the Graduate Office).

The Committee discussed operating procedures and charged the Chair to present an explanation of them to the SLA Faculty Assembly. The following was read into the Assembly's record for its 29 September meeting as a statement from the Graduate Curriculum Committee:

The committee sees its charge as assisting SLA faculty in putting forth syllabi that allow them to teach well. There are Campus guidelines for what must be in a syllabus. These guidelines can be found at: http://www.iupui.edu/~gradoff/gac/curr_design-evaluation.html

Requests for new courses or changes in courses (including credit hours), need to comply with these rules or the Curriculum Subcommittee of Graduate Affairs Committee will delay processing them. When this committee returns a course syllabus to the submitting faculty, it is to insure that the course is accepted by the University Graduate School, not because the Graduate Curriculum Committee is finding fault necessarily.

In the case of Variable Subtitle Courses, the current SLA Faculty policy is that these are to be reviewed by the Graduate Curriculum Committee. They do not need to go to the campus Curriculum Subcommittee of Graduate Affairs Committee. We propose to handle these requests in an expedited manner:

1. They will be reviewed by one member of the Committee who will approve the course unless that member sees a serious problem worthy of discussion by the Committee as a whole.
2. Minor problems will be sent back to the Chair with a request to see that the problem is addressed, but the revised syllabus will not need to be resubmitted to the Graduate Curriculum Committee.
3. There will be more flexibility regarding deadlines for variable title courses. Still it would be advisable to receive them before the catalog for the semester is published.

The Graduate Committee approved the following 12 new courses (1 is cross-listed), with a few requests for minor revisions to comply with the requirements for graduate syllabi or to clarify ambiguities:

- ENG-W 531: Designing & Editing Visual Technical Communication
- ENG-W 605: Writing Project Summer Institute
- LING-E 501: Introduction to Legal English
- LING-E 502: Legal English I
- LING-E 503: Legal English II
- HIST-H 516: History of Philanthropy in the U.S.
- HIST-H 548: Historical Administration (cross listed with MSTD-A 548)
- MSTD-A 530: Museum Colloquium
- MSTD-A 548: Museum Administration (cross listed with HIST-H 548)
- POLS-Y 624: Indiana State Government and Politics

Approval for new courses (cont.):

POLS-Y 642: Comparative Federalism
POLS-Y 880: Thesis A.M [hours]
POLS-Y 881: Internship in Political Science

The Committee approved 2 requests to change credit hours:

COMM-C 599: Independent Study (from variable 3-6 to variable 1-6)
ENG-W 532: Managing Document Quality (from 3 to 4)

It also approved a change in a course title:

PHST-P 790 from “Dissertation Seminar in Philanthropic Studies” to
“Doctoral Research Seminar in Philanthropic Studies”

One major program revision was approved (after requesting clarification of the rationale from the Department) and sent to the SLA Faculty Assembly for approval:

That a thesis be made optional for the masters in Philosophy.

Two minor program revisions were approved:

The allocation of core, elective, and internship course requirements for the Museum Studies Master’s Degree and Graduate Certificate (the credit hours remain unchanged).

The Committee approved 6 variable subtitle requests:

COMM-C 591: Family Communication in Health Contexts
ENG-W 609: English for International Postdoctoral Researchers
MSTD-A560: Indigenous Peoples of North America
MSTD-A560: Museum Research Methods in Education and Visitor Experience
SOC-S 560: Sociology of Race and Ethnicity
SOC-S 560: Visual Research Methods in Sociology

The Graduate Curriculum Committee had a sustained discussion about the submission of courses from Journalism. The chair (as well as members of relevant departments) worked with the Journalism faculty to insure that courses conformed to university guidelines as well as avoided (significant) overlap with courses in other departments. The following courses were reviewed and returned to Journalism for revision:

JOUR-J 521: Public Relations Planning
JOUR-J 527: Public Relations Research
JOUR-J 532: Public Relations Case Studies
JOUR-J 540: Advertising Theory and Strategies

Prior to resubmission, the President of Indiana University decided that Journalism would not join SLA so no further work was done.

Business for Next Year’s Committee:

The Committee is aware that the Undergraduate Curriculum and Standards Committee has a different policy regarding the approval of variable subtitle courses (last year, the decision was made to allow Chairs to approve them). Future curriculum committees or the Faculty Assembly may wish to make the procedure consistent for graduate and undergraduate courses.

The Committee also discussed whether we should have a graduate student (non-voting) member on the Committee. We made an initial request to Directors of Graduate Studies in departments with Masters programs, but never followed up on the suggestions. The next Committee may want to consider the matter more carefully (including whether it would necessitate a change in the by-laws).

We also want to give a “head’s up” to next year’s committee that the Anthropology Department will be submitting a proposal for a master’s program. Given that such a proposal will need to go through the Faculty Assembly, it seemed advised to wait until the 2007-08 Graduate Curriculum Committee is constituted so there will be continuity in the committee members who review the proposal and those who will have to present it to the Faculty Assembly.

Final Comment:

The Chair expresses the appreciation of the Graduate Curriculum Committee for the significant assistance provided to it by Ms. Becky Renollet.

Submitted by Nancy Marie Robertson
Chair, Graduate Curriculum Committee
22 May 2007