Curriculum Committee
Minutes of October 9, 2008

Members Present: Sandra Berkowitz, James Carabetta, Volker Ecke, Donald Ferris, Liam Harte, Brian Hubbard, Christine Irundo, Stan Jackson, Sean Klay, David Laing, Marsha Marotta, John Ohotnicky, Brooke Orr, Stephen Smith, Veronica Tumavicius, Mary Allen Watson, and Keonderick White.

Guests Present: Larry Griffith, Carol Persson, and Lori Letendre.

The meeting was brought to order at 3:57 PM by Chair Carabetta.

CHAIRS REPORT

• The minutes of September 25, 2008 were approved.

• Chair Carabetta asked for a resolution to send a letter of thanks to Professor Anna Rokicki for graciously allowing the use of her classroom for Curriculum Committee usage. Stephen Smith made the motion. It was seconded by Sean Klay, and unanimously approved.

• Carabetta has informed Cynthia Siegler that course action forms relating to global diversity were missing from the J-semester proposals. Cynthia has responded that such forms will be forthcoming.

• Carabetta congratulated both subcommittees on their expeditious addressing of ACC 08-53, The Final Report of the Commonwealth Transfer Advisory Group (CTAG). It was noted that the original ACC requested response deadline of October 14th has been extended to October 31st. An October 24th meeting of statewide college and government representatives will take place at UMASS. Vice President Robert Hayes and Professor Larry Griffith will attend from Westfield State. Pursuant to an observation by Chair Carabetta that no Curriculum Committee member was scheduled to attend, Vice President Hayes made an allowance for such an attendee.

• Carabetta stated that several faculty members had responded to his request for response to the CTAG report. Responses were included in subsequent discussions, which are summarized later in these minutes.

• Carol Persson presented the genesis of the CTAG report, and outlined the necessity to respond to its recommendations.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

David Laing and Liam Harte presented their respective subcommittee reports. Lori Letendre, a very helpful participant in both subcommittee meetings due to her expertise in present and past transfer policies and practices, also volunteered her written observations regarding the subcommittee deliberations. The main issues of the three reports and subsequent full committee discussions are listed below:

• Acceptance of "D" grades in transfer
• Dichotomy of student populations (native and transfer) eligible for "D" transfer grades

• 34 core credits proposed by the transfer policy versus the 49-52 core credit requirement of Westfield State native students as fulfillment of the core

• College Algebra as an acceptable Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning core requirement

• Science core area fulfillment by a non-Lab science course

• English Composition II core requirement fulfillment by a "writing intensive" course

• Possible financial inequities for transfer students versus native students, as recommended in this proposed policy

• Ramifications from proposed state-level subcommittees that provide "implementation and oversight"

• Different requirements for transfer students and native students

• Possible “false advertising” emanating from implementation of the proposed policy

• View of our college core and related policies as "barriers" or as "standards"?

The meeting was adjourned at 5:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald T. Ferris

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Curriculum Committee Secretary