Minutes of Westfield State Curriculum Committee  
3/28/2013

Committee Members in Attendance:

Faculty: Ziblim Abukari; Carsten Braun; Eric Bressler; Susanne Chuku; Sunday Fakunmoju; Liam Harte; Brian Jennings; Megan Kennedy; David Laing; David Shapleigh; Elizabeth Starr

Students: Katie Morrissey

Administration: Marsha Marotta; John Ohotnicky; Thomas Raffensberger

Guests of the Committee:

Sandra Berkowitz

Minutes

3:45 Meeting comes to order.

3:52 Soon to be secretary Brian Jennings arrives slightly late to find he has been voted secretary for the meeting. He is quite curious how this plot unfolded; regardless he has learned his lesson about arriving late.

3:55 The Curriculum Committee welcomes Sandra Berkowitz, Chair of the Education Department, to discuss CARs 13-20, 13-21, 13-22,13-23. She begins by informing CC of state mandated requirements for all education licensure programs following from the RETELL program. In response to these new state requirements, the Education Department is requesting the creation of a new course (EDUC0363) through CAR 13-22. These new requirements need to go into effect for Fall 2013.

4:05 CC discusses CAR 13-22; editing recommendations in the course description come forth.

4:10 John Ohotnicky voices significant concerns with the co-requisite request on the CAR. The computer system used but the Registrar’s office will not handle the restrictions (many, many, many co-requisites), so he proposes we restrict the pilot courses that will be running in the fall term of 2013, and work on modifications that are system compatible at a later date. John Ohotnicky proposes the elimination of the co-requisite requests at this time.

4:15 Sandra Berkowitz adds that changes in the details of requirements at the state level make the issue of co-requisites a moving target at present.

4:16 More suggested edits to CAR 13-22 follow from CC heavy hitters Marsha Marotta, Eric Bressler, Liam Harte, and John Ohotnicky. (Watching them work on CARs is poetry.)
4:18 Eric Bressler motions to adopt CAR 13-22 as amended, and Suzanne Chuku seconds the motion.

4:19 The motion to adopt CAR 13-22, with amendments, is approved with 15 votes for, and 0 votes against, and 0 abstentions.

4:20 After grumbles about the strange numerical ordering of this group of CARs, CC begins discussion on CAR 13-21.

4:21 Minor grammatical edits are suggest.

4:22 John Ohotnicky voices the issue of creating new requirements for students already operating under certain course catalogs not containing these new state requirements.

4:24 Sandra Berkowitz explains past discussions related to this issue. The state is mandating these requirements, our discussion is literally and figuratively academic.

John Ohotnicky brings up issues related to computer audits.

Eric Bressler asks what the worst case scenario is if we retroactively change program requirements. Are we swimming in litigious waters?

John Ohotnicky cites higher education case law and bulletin language claiming WSU reserves the right to change bulletin language and content at any time (some member of the committee remarks that this means we can do anything we want, and then laughs in an evil manner.) More logistical questions are posed and discussed.

4:30 Liam Harte brings the issue back to curriculum matters. John Ohotnicky reiterates that this CAR changes departure requirements rather than arrival curriculum requirements.

4:33 Eric Bressler motions to approve CAR 13-21 as amended.

4:34 Marsha Marotta brings up credit hour totals for licensure in the bulletin being updated.

4:35 Brian Jennings seconds the motion, remarking that he wanted to make sure he was in the minutes if he was going to be secretary.

4:36 The motion to adopt CAR 13-21, with amendments, is approved with 15 votes for, and 0 votes against, and 0 abstentions.

4:37 CC takes up CAR 13-20, members note again how strange it is to be addressing these CARs in reverse numerical order. Sandra Berkowitz explains the rationale behind this CAR.

4:40 John Ohotnicky (with only 5 minutes left before he must leave) claims that there is some question as to the legitimacy of claiming that the course rearrangement is honest and

4:45 John Ohotnicky departs.

4:45 Elizabeth Starr asks questions related to state requirements and the associated field experience that pairs with EDUC0363

4:46 Eric Bressler motions to approve CAR 13-20 as amended.

4:47 In a bid to get her name in the minutes Megan Kennedy beats Brian Jennings by a hair to second the motion. Well played Megan, well played.

4:47 The motion to adopt CAR 13-20, with amendments, is approved with 14 votes for, and 0 votes against, and 0 abstentions.

4:48 CC takes up CAR 13-23. Liam Harte expresses doubt as to whether this CAR is necessary.

4:49 Liam Harte motions to reconsider the vote on CAR 13-20, Eric Bressler seconds. Liam Harte moves to a further edit, then approval. Someone seconds.

4:50 The motion to adopt CAR 13-20, with further amendments, is approved with 14 votes for, and 0 votes against, and 0 abstentions.

4:51 Liam Harte re-expresses that he feels CAR 13-23 is not necessary due to CAR 13-20 taking into account the relevant issues behind CAR 13-23. Discussion follows.

4:58 Liam Harte motions to re-reconsider our vote on CAR 13-20 as amended (again).

4:59 Suzanne Chuku moves to re-re-approve CAR 13-20 as amended. Megan Kennedy seconds the motion.

5:00 Carsten Braun leave. The motion to adopt CAR 13-20, with further amendments, is approved with 13 votes for, and 0 votes against, and 0 abstentions. Elizabeth Starr leaves.

Motion to adjourn.

Merry Thursday to all, and to all a good night.