Westfield State University
Curriculum Committee Minutes for Thursday, April 25, 2013

Members in Attendance: Megan Kennedy, Joe Camilleri, Eric Bressler, Brian Jennings, John Ohotnicky, David Shapleigh, Ziblim Abukari, David Laing, Gabriel Aquino, Sunday Fakunmoju, Thomas Raffensberger, Carsten Braun, Marsha Marotta

Guest(s): Y. Hugh Jo

(See http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7jK-jZo6xjY for the cultural reference related to this opening. please take these minutes as an attempt to bring a little light-hearted energy to CC.)

Not so long ago, in a room not at all very far away…

C.A.R. WARS

It is a time of great change at Westfield State,

after having been promoted to the status of university,

new issues arise.

Academic Affairs won a great victory vanquishing the forces of NEASC;

a new dormitory (Newer Hall, New New Hall, New Times 2 Hall, Other New Hall, Newest For Now Hall…) is taking shape; construction of new academic space is being planned, and planned, and planned, and planned,…

Wilson Hall has gotten a new air conditioner, HORRAY!

Then we come to the Curriculum Committee (CC).

Under the extraordinary leadership of Liam Harte, CC broke with tradition, dispatched it’s subcommittees and tackled a mountain of CARs. Though the journey has been long, amazing progress has been made, but ultimate victory is far from assured…..with final exams in swing, marathon meetings are upon us, and the ROCCC report need be addressed (cue lightning and thunder outside, and cold shiver running down your spine).
(3:45) Eric Bressler has agreed to stand in as chair for the committee, Brian Jennings agrees to stand in as secretary for the committee (just remember that you asked me).

(3:50) CC meets quorum with the timely arrival of Ziblim Abukari. Eric Bressler remarks “…now we’re quoring…” (it’s nice to have a chair that thinks outside the vocab box.)

(3:51) Eric Bressler calls the meeting to order, and CC invites Y. Hugh Jo from WSU political science department.

(3:52) CC reviews the impeccably detailed minutes from 4/11/2013.

(3:53) Brian Jennings motions (stepping up to the plate, and taking on the mantle of first motioner that Eric Bressler usually wears) to approve the minutes, Joe Camilleri seconds. The committee votes to approve the minutes with 10 votes FOR, 0 votes AGAINST, and 1 ABSTENTION.

(3:54) Eric Bressler moves to take up the first item of new work on the agenda CAR 12-62. Marsha Marotta suggests that the committee take up CAR 12-61, so that the course it will create can run in the fall term of 2013. Debate ensues. Gabriel Aquino suggests putting a time limit on the discussion of CAR 12-62 in order to ensure the committee gets to CAR 12-61. Eric Bressler suggests we take up CAR 12-62 first, but plan to move off of it if time is running short. Marsha Marotta accedes (with a hint of a smirk on her face.)

(3:56) Eric Bressler brings up CAR 12-62.

(3:58) Joe Camilleri alerts Eric Bressler that several committee members (basically the ad-hoc committee…is this a prank) do not have 12-61 and 12-62.

(3:59) After a committee-wide calculation of who is closest to their copy machine Carsten Braun leaves to make copies.

(4:00) Eric Bressler moves the committees attention to CAR 12-44 until copies of 12-61 and 12-62 arrive. Gabriel Aquino, Megan Kennedy, and Eric Bressler discuss the old gem of a question as to why the course is labeled with a 300 designation but has no prerequisite. John Ohotnicky lets that pitch go by.

(4:03) Dave Shapleigh arrives.

(4:04) Joe Camilleri asks the committee why this CAR was tabled to begin with.

(4:05) Gabriel Aquino argues that, in his opinion, there are no major issues with the CAR fitting with precedent in the Sociology Department. Y. Hugh Jo agrees. Some questions regarding details arise, and Eric Bressler argues we should take these questions back to the Sociology Department to solicit more information.

(4:09) Brian Jennings motions to table CAR 12-44, Joe Camillieri seconds. The committee votes with 10 votes FOR, 0 votes AGAINST, and 0 ABSTENTIONS.

(4:10) Carsten Braun returns with copies in hand. CC takes up CAR 12-62, and Eric Bressler confirms modifications to the original CAR.

(4:11) Dave Shapleigh asks questions related to university policy toward minors, and his questions are addressed.

(4:12) Eric Bressler asks how a minor works outside a department. Marsha Marotta and Gabriel Aquino argue that the minor is in fact housed in political science. Gabriel Aquino draws an analogy to existing programs. Y. Hugh Jo distributes a letter from David Smailes endorsing the minor in CAR 12-62.
(4:14) Megan Kennedy (springs Marsha’s trap) and asks if we can approve a minor which includes a class that
doesn’t exist (the course that will be created by CAR 12-61).

(4:15) Eric Bressler’s realizes that he’s been checkmated by Marsha, he graciously admits defeat.

(4:18) Megan Kennedy motions to table 12-62 and take up CAR 12-61, Joe Camillieri seconds. (Does anyone else
have trouble remembering which consonant gets doubled in Joe’s last name? I’ve literally written Cammilieri,
Camlierri, Ccamilieri…okay, maybe not the last one.) The committee votes with 12 votes FOR, 0 votes AGAINST,
and 0 ABSTENTIONS.

(4:19) Megan Kennedy and Gabriel Aquino bring up questions related to logistics as to what this course (the one
created by CAR 12-61) should count for in political science if it is now an Asian Studies minor course.

(4:20) John Ohotnicky, with eyes like a hawk, notes the CAR is missing a course level/number.

(4:21) Marsha Marotta asks questions about logistics of the team taught model for the class. Marsha states that it is currently running like this, but it isn’t required to be taught in that manner. Y. Hugh
jo addresses logistic issues and shares some changes to the CAR that address issues related to a previous discussion
in CC about this CAR.

(4:23) Eric Bressler offers to share his previous notes concerning changes to this CAR. CC reads over the new
version of the CAR to the Mozart-like hum of the heating unit…how old is that thing?

(4:25) Marsha Marotta suggests removing some language on the CAR concerning what the course satisfies. Eric
Bressler says it’s taken care of. CC ponders the CAR in more depth, the heater has moved to Chopin…is that
Scherzo in minor B?

(4:27) John Ohotnicky motions to approve as amended, Brian Jennings seconds. The committee votes with 12 votes
FOR, 0 votes AGAINST, and 0 ABSTENTIONS.

(4:28) Motion to pick up CAR 12-62 off the table. The committee votes with 12 votes FOR, 0 votes AGAINST, and
0 ABSTENTIONS. (Did we need to vote on that?)

(4:29) CC takes up CAR 12-62. Logistic questions related to the course in CAR 12-61 come up, and are dealt with.

(4:30) Y. Hugh Jo discusses the proportion of the courses that explicitly focus/study Asia, as opposed to a global
studies course that involves a significant component focusing on Asia. Eric Bressler asks if including some courses
only sometimes is really workable. (This relates to the asterisk associated with some courses in the CAR.) Gabriel
Aquino discusses how this model works with other minors at the university. The question, from someone…maybe
the heater, arises as to who decides when a course will or won’t count for the minor. Is it the instructor that decides?

John Ohotnicky weighs in with his understanding that it is a departmental, not individual faculty, decision as to
when courses will count for a minor. He suggests that with the Asian Studies minor, departments should decide to
allow, or not, specific sections of their courses. He voices that he shares Eric Bressler’s concern.

Gabriel Aquino suggests that there must be a compromise that everyone can live with.

Marsha Marotta brings up the fact that some sections of some classes would fit into the minor well, whereas some
other sections may not fit at all.

Y. Hugh Jo provides some examples of unofficial understandings with some instructors.

(4:38) Joe Ccamilieri reads Brian Jennings’ mind and voices their concern of what the set-up of this minor will look
like to students. It becomes clear that Joe C. does not know the plural of asterisk…and no one else does either. Joe
wants more clarity for students.

CC discusses various possible remedies.
Carsten Braun wants to know why there are no Geography courses in the minor (secretarial side note: Asia is 29.5% of the Earth’s land mass (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Continent) just sayin’). Y Hugh Jo, says he didn’t hear any requests from GARP when he solicited for classes to include.

(4:42) Megan Kennedy offers a zinger of a hypothetical of what if a student only takes asterisked courses, should this satisfy the minor?

Gabriel Aquino addresses this concern, and brings up the question of whether a language component should be required. Megan thanks Gabe for addressing her question.

(4:44) Eric Bressler brings the discussion back to what language we require to explain how the asterisk functions.

Marsha Marotta offers some clarity.

Carsten Braun offers the idea of having a general language requirement, not one specific to the courses listed.

Most members of CC are nodding, though it isn’t clear to what.

Gabriel Aquino offers what precedent exists in other minors.

Marsha Marotta struggles with the plural of asterisk.

Eric Bressler asks Y. Hugh Jo what his preference would be for language explaining the asterisk.

More discussion follows.

Marsha Marotta, Gabriel Aquino, Carsten Braun, Joe Camillieri, Eric Bressler, and many others offer ideas too fast for the secretary to write down.

Marsha Marotta offers a fix which some disagree with.

(4:55) Motion to approve as amended by Brian Jennings, Carsten Braun seconds.

Gabriel Aquino asks for clarification of the language amending the CAR, then Eric Bressler’s CC Muse hits, he suggests superiorly clear language, which simultaneously makes everyone happy.

(4:56) Brian Jennings motions to approve as newly amended, David Laing (and several others) second. The committee votes with 12 votes FOR, 0 votes AGAINST, and 0 ABSTENTIONS.

(4:58) Eric Bressler alerts the committee that there are 2 minutes left in our usual meeting time, and asks “Is there a motion?”

(4:59) Brian Jennings motions to adjourn. All agree.

And Here It Is, Your Moment of Zen: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Of2HU3LGdbo