

Curriculum Committee Minutes
January 29, 2008

Members: James Swartz (Chair), Gerald Adams, Eliza Willis, Karla Erickson, John Stone, and Eric Olson. Guest: Cheryl Chase

1. The minutes of the meeting of 12/04/07 were approved
2. New Course Approval: Status of HIS-262 was tabled again until the Dean gets more information from the history department.
3. The Dean raised the question of the scheduling of short courses during fall break. The committee believes that the fall break should not be used for anything other than its intended purpose. Giving a course for credit during this period is not what the break is designed for but students are free to organize and/or participate in any type of alt-break activity.
4. The Sociology Department has considered this proposal put forward by Doug Caulkins in the CDO, and we are fully in support of the proposal for the reasons that Doug has enumerated. Kent

Currently, sociology students are expected to make a formal application for an internship to the Career Development Office, which then forwards the application for credit to the Curriculum Committee. This seems an unnecessary and inappropriate burden on both the CDO and the Curriculum Committee since students get credit for the SOC 300 course, not the internship itself. The faculty member teaching SOC 300 is responsible for managing and supervising the students and their internship.

To require Curriculum Committee approval in this case is analogous to requiring CC approval of the research paper topics selected by students in a seminar. The CC currently does not review internship applications undertaken on the Grinnell-in-Washington and Grinnell-in-London Programs, since faculty supervise the internships in both those instances. In any case, there is no institutional memory of any proposed internship for SOC 300 being rejected. Eliminating the requirement for Curriculum Committee approval for internships for SOC 300 students would reduce the burden on this important committee and would honor the faculty autonomy that we, in other instances, take for granted as part of the instructor's responsibility.

The committee will present a proposal to the faculty that SOC 300, Grinnell-in-Washington and Grinnell-in-London internships do not have to be vetted by the CC because these are regular internship courses taught by regular faculty of the college.

5. The Committee considered the following proposal: Create a half-credit internship category in addition to the current 2 and 4 credit internships. For half-credit internships, the tuition costs and the faculty sponsor's responsibilities should be reduced proportionately. [Currently, the tuition for 2 credit internships is \$1,786; for one half-credit it would be \$446.50.] The purpose of the half credit internship is to *reduce demands on faculty time and reducing student costs*, while meeting curricular needs from some majors and concentrations, meeting the requirement of some internship providers, and allowing international students to meet federal requirements for summer internships without incurring the expense and time delay of applying for Optional Practical Training (OPT). [According to recent national surveys, 20% of internship providers require that their internship is taken for credit. This is the case for Sponsors for Educational Opportunity (SEO), for example, which provides summer internships for students of color, including some Grinnell students.]

The responsibilities of the faculty sponsor for a half-credit internship shall be as follows:

Meets with student to formulate faculty expectations and sign learning contract; (2) receives a brief update on the internship around the middle of the internship, normally the 4th week; (3) debriefs the student after her/his return to campus.

The student should be encouraged to alert the faculty sponsor or a staff member of the CDO if difficulties arise in the internship. The faculty sponsor may respond or may refer the issue to the CDO for a response. The student completes a summary paper and journal which are deposited with the CDO (this is current routine). The faculty advisor can use those documents as part of the debriefing, but is not required to do so. These faculty responsibilities are considerably scaled down from what is expected for a 2 or 4 credit internship.

The committee was sympathetic to the idea of reducing the cost associated with doing a summer internship for credit but they were not inclined to do it by reducing the credit for summer internship to just a half-credit. The committee is concerned about maintaining the integrity of those internships done for credit. The committee was concerned that by reducing the credit of some internship that it would devalue the academic experience. The committee was supportive of the idea of reducing the per credit charge for summer internships.

6. The Curriculum Committee approved the following procedure for reviewing summer internship grants for credit as follows:
 - a. Normally, application materials will be on Pioneer web for the Committee's attention, rather than distributed as hard copy. As the current Registrar will be retiring in July the Committee tabled the following recommendation until the new Registrar is on board.
 - b. The Registrar will screen summer applications and bring only potentially problematic ones to the attention of the committee (as is done in CAS, and OCS)
7. The committee began to discuss An Alternate Registration Scheme for New Students.

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