

Minutes
Curriculum Committee
4:15 p.m., Tuesday, April 08, 2008
Room 226, JRC

Members: James Swartz (Chair), Gerald Adams, Eliza Willis, Karla Erickson, Erik Simpson, John Stone, Katherine Ingram, Kristen Audet, and Eric Olson. Guest: Cheryl Chase

1. The minutes of the meeting of 03/11/08 were approved.
2. The Curriculum Committee approved the structure for the Wilson Summer Internship Grant winners proposed by Doug Caulkins as Chair of the Wilson Program in Enterprise and Leadership for creditable summer internships for the duration of his Chairmanship of the program and his SFS appointment.
3. Eliza and Jim summarized the discussion of the council regarding our memorandum dated 12/04/07. Independent Study. The council minutes say:

The Dean distributed some statistical information on independent study. E. Willis pointed out that there are two issues as described in a memorandum dated 12/4/07 from the Curriculum Committee:

- Compensation for non-MAP independent study supervision; and
- The incentive system for MAPs pushes projects that are more appropriately categorized as independent study.

The President expressed his reservations about giving cash compensation citing this as an inappropriate incentive to greater work. He also stated that he thought the issue of MAP quality should rest with the departments. Further, he likes the outcome of MAPs leading to greater support for full-year leaves. Council expressed concern with the lack of evaluations of student MAPs. There was concern that a MAP requirement may lead to uncertain quality outcomes. The Dean noted that he has encouraged the Committee for the Support of Faculty Scholarship to question summer MAPs to improve quality. E. Willis pointed out that students are coming with expectations of being able to do MAPs, so whatever happens the message to students must be clear. She pointed out that there are two distinct models:

- Faculty projects with students recruited (mostly in the sciences); and
- Student projects with faculty recruited (mostly in the non-sciences).

J. Meehan noted that while limits on the number of MAPs are important they are not well enforced. Swartz responded that the only limits are on how many can be counted toward graduation. Various models for limits for faculty and students were discussed.

The President suggested that making judgements on approval of MAPs should take care not to second guess faculty, while still protecting pre-tenure faculty.

E. Willis summarized the discussion. There should be no compensation, encourage vetting by departments, restrict school-year numbers of MAPs undertaken by both faculty and students, and required MAPs is a bad idea.

The committee will ask that the deadline for submitting a MAP application to the chair for approval be moved up by two weeks in the hope that this will encourage vetting by departments. The subject of restricting school-year number of MAPs will be carried over as an agenda item until next year. Currently a MAP is required for all Independent Majors and in both the Linguistics and Latin American Studies Concentrations. At least one member of the committee thinks that there should be an alternative way to satisfy this requirement. No conclusions or decisions were reached on this issue.

4. The committee spoke briefly about the up coming pre-registration regarding cuts and how many spaces are to be reserved for new student in the fall. No conclusions or decisions were reached on these issues.

[Return to Curriculum Committee page](#)