

Minutes
Curriculum Committee
February 11, 2003

Members: James Swartz (Chair), Gerald Adams, Diane Robertson, Jerry Lalonde, Mark Montgomery, Courtney Sloger, and Devan McGranahan.

Agenda:

1. The minutes from the 01/28/03 meeting were approved.
2. The CSC majors were interviewed concerning summer MAP opportunities. They are concerned that any CSC major who wants to do a summer project should have adequate access to summer MAP opportunities. With only a finite amount of resources (both with respect to adviser and financial support) this is a problem that is not restricted to just CSC majors. The proposal below would help to distribute our resources equitably across all disciplines. It was pointed out that in item number three below there is provision for the supervision of MAP students who are pursuing a common project but no such provision for the directing of summer MAPs. The committee accepted a proposal by the Dean to revise item number one to be more in parallel with items two and three with respect to the supervision of MAPs with a common project. The Dean will bring some revised language to the next meeting.

An essential element of a Mentored Advanced Project is that it be intensively mentored. The level of mentoring, combined with the advanced quality of the research, distinguishes MAPs from other forms of Independent Study. Summer MAPs, the most intensively mentored of the MAPs, also draw especially heavily on the resources of the College. For these reasons, the Dean's Office proposes that a limit be set on the number of MAPs that can be directed by a faculty member in a single term.

1. No more than 6 MAPs in a summer term or any term where a faculty member is teaching one or no courses.
2. No more than 2 MAPs during a regular academic term when the faculty member is teaching two or more regular courses.
3. No more than 3 MAPs during a regular academic term in which the faculty member is teaching two or more regular courses, and when the MAP students are pursuing a common project.
3. The committee continued its discussion of faculty compensation for independent study. It was noted that the faculty has always directed independent study and the science faculty has always conducted summer research. The biggest injustice comes in the summer because there is no salary for any faculty time but there is the expectation that in the sciences faculty will be available to supervise summer research. One person has proposed that we have course compensation only for summer directed activities. Some faculty in the social sciences and humanities spend a lot of time during the academic year guiding independent projects and, given some of their research interests, it would not be feasible for some of them to remain at Grinnell during the summer directing student research. How much course release can the college afford in terms of reasonable class sizes and the quality of temporary faculty teaching the classes that have to be covered as more and more regular faculty take their course release? At this point the committee felt that a broader discussion of this topic is needed. A discussion of this topic will take place at a future faculty meeting.
4. The committee will put on the next agenda a discussion of shortening the add period to one week as it appears that some students are waiting until the last minute to drop some of their classes.
5. The final approved proposal regarding the rule that the only 2 credit MAPs are permitted as follow-up MAPs:

All MAPs, with the exception of follow-up MAPs, must be at least 4 credits. Follow-up MAPs may be 2 credits. On those occasions when the MAP director can show that two 2-credit segments of a MAP taken over two semesters best meets the research requirements of the project, he or she should speak with the Associate Dean regarding an exception. In such cases, the student would enroll in a 397 for the first 2 credits of work, and then may enroll in a 499 for the following 2 credits of work in a subsequent semester.