



ACADEMIC COORDINATING COMMISSION Meeting Minutes of April 28, 2015

Called to order at 4:02 pm by ACC Chair Mark Kuntz. Minutes of April 14, 2015 were approved as written ([linked](#)).

ACTION ITEM:

- *Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education* Steve VanderStaay announced that his office has completed an annual report detailing substantive curricular changes that have taken place in the last year for submission to the regional accrediting body and that he will present this report to the intercollegiate academic planning council where all Washington state-funded universities share information about new programs and major curricular changes. VanderStaay reported that WSU is creating many new degree programs, including [Everett-based programs](#) that are geographically proximate to Western, and over 50 new applied baccalaureate degrees have been put forth by community colleges during the last year.

REVIEW OF CURRICULUM MINUTES:

#	Committee	Date	Actions	Minutes prepared by
83	Honors Board	2/9/2015	ACCEPTED	G. Mariz
84	Recruitment, Admissions, Support Committee (RASC)	2/13/2015	ACCEPTED with comments. ^{1,2}	A. Cantlon
85	College of Science and Engineering CC (CSE)	4/7/2015	ACCEPTED with correction. ³	J. Mott
86	Committee on Undergraduate Education (CUE)	4/9/2015	Minutes ACCEPTED as record of meeting, consideration of motions contained therein TABLED with comments. ⁴	K. Swift
87	College of Humanities and Social Sciences CC (CHSS)	4/16/2015	ACCEPTED with comments. ^{5,6}	M. Geisler

¹ In response to RASC's discussion of faculty involvement in admissions, a commissioner suggested that RASC create and distribute stickers or signage to be placed on office doors as a means of allowing faculty members interested in making themselves available to prospective students to self-identify.

² Commissioners conveyed questions and concerns regarding communication with prospective and incoming students who express interest in bottleneck majors like Kinesiology. *CHSS Associate Dean* Marc Geisler stated that the college is sending out letters apprising admitted freshmen with a declared interest in Kinesiology of the current length of the major's waitlist. Movement toward future implementation of a selective admission system for the major is regarded as likely.

³ Page 1 of 2 (EE 110): "Prerequisite: PHYS162" should be revised to specify "Prerequisite with concurrency."

⁴ Motion to accept minutes while tabling consideration of motions contained therein (forwarded by Doug Clark and seconded) passed by consensus. Commissioners expressed concern about possible structural contradictions within presented CUE actions pertaining to reception and future consideration of the WSGE Report.

⁵ In response to mode of delivery changes reported by CHSS as information items, commissioners sought information regarding criteria used by curriculum committees to determine credit loads for online courses. *CHSS Associate Dean* Marc Geisler stated that in the instance of established courses with pre-determined credit loads, the CHSS Curriculum Committee relies largely upon departmental determination that online delivery will provide content equivalent to face-to-face delivery. Geisler articulated the position that a more concrete standard about the kind of the review that ACC expects departments and colleges to undertake for both face-to-face and online courses is desirable.

⁶ Page 3 of 11 (CSD 497J): Commissioners inquired if making new course CSD 497J a co-requisite of CSD 372 had the effect of adding a credit to CSD degree programs. *CHSS Associate Dean* Marc Geisler stated that the department has been told that, while it can strongly advise students to take CSD 497J as an extra credit within their degree programs, it cannot require CSD 497J until permanent changes to relevant degree programs have been forwarded and approved.

ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS:

Confirmation of Standing Committee Appointments: Commissioners voted unanimously in favor of a motion (forwarded by Doug Clark and seconded) to confirm the following appointments:

To CUE as At-Large Representative teaching GURs (1 of 2): Donna Qualley, *English*

To CUE as CHSS Representative (1 of 2): Richard Bulcroft, *Sociology*

ACTION ITEM:

Holly Folk withdrew her motion (forwarded at ACC's meeting of April 14th, 2015) to create a task force to address issues related to accreditation.

DISCUSSION ITEM:

General Education Task Force Desirability and Home: *ACC Chair* Mark Kuntz sought feedback from commissioners in response the following questions and asked that the two queries be considered separately:

- Should a task force be constituted to evaluate Western's general education program?
- Where should such a task force live and to whom should it report?

Commissioners observed that the efficacy of a new task force might depend upon the presentation of its charge and discussed the need for greater programmatic coherence in the general education program and the practical challenges presented by the necessity of recognizing and navigating the space between necessary and visionary change. Members expressed concern that past task forces had been charged with producing consensus or agreement instead of more ideas and discussion, and speculated that asking for multiple possible directions for general education revision might yield a more productive campus-wide discussion. Commissioners asked that the ACC Executive Committee begin working on a draft charge for discussion at a future ACC meeting.

Commissioners discussed the intended and past role of CUE in conversations about Western's general education program and expressed concern that CUE may not be regarded as a neutral body by many members of the campus community.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.