



ACADEMIC COORDINATING COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes of April 30, 2019

CALL TO ORDER: *ACC Chair* Sheila Webb called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm, welcoming a total of 18 attendees (roster attached).

ACC Chair Sheila Webb announced that minutes of April 16, 2019 were not yet available due to recorder Jan Carmichael's departure from Western, but informed committee members about concerns about the legal viability of the motion forwarded and passed during Items from the Floor at the meeting of April 16th which stated, "The Academic Coordinating Commission, whose purview comprises all aspects of policy relating to the academic enterprise of the University, resolves and affirms that it is unacceptable for Western Washington University faculty to say the N-word racial slur in the classroom." Webb stated that members of the Faculty Senate Executive Council and Academic Coordinating Commission Executive Committee have consulted with the Assistant Attorney General, Equal Opportunity Office, and the Office of Risk Management, and asked *Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education* Steve VanderStaay to report on the concerns conveyed by the Assistant Attorney General (AAG). VanderStaay reported that, in its current form, the motion may violate the academic freedom provisions in the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the United Faculty of Western Washington and infringe the First Amendment rights of faculty as citizens.

Lizzy Ramhorst, *Parliamentarian*, stated that on an organizational level it is necessary to ensure that actions taken conform with the rule of law and outlined parliamentary means of revisiting previous actions. Sheila Webb, *ACC Chair*, recommended that the committee consider rescinding the motion of April 16th. A motion to rescind the motion of April 16th on the basis of concerns about legal viability was forwarded by Phil Thompson and seconded. Committee members inquired about means of sending a strong message to faculty discouraging use of the N-word and other racial slurs in the event of the motion's rescission and sought to determine whether there was middle ground possible between rescinding the motion and letting it stand as written. Webb stated that committee members were welcome to forward an amended or alternative motion but requested that any such motion be carefully vetted for legality. Ramhorst stated that lack of clarity in the original motion due to the absence of a clear mechanism of action was a source of ambiguity and vulnerability and recommended that any amendment or future motion seeking to address the same issue be crafted with a clear mechanism of action that would facilitate its consideration by the Faculty Senate. Committee members expressed interest in pursuing follow-up action intended to address the same or similar issues and discussed possible means of doing so, including strong position statements expressing disapproval and the introduction of new guidance for faculty in the Teaching Handbook, an online document commissioned by the ACC.

By a vote of five in favor, four opposed, and one abstaining, committee members voted **to rescind** the motion of April 16th which stated that "The Academic Coordinating Commission, whose purview comprises all aspects of policy relating to the academic enterprise of the University, resolves and affirms that it is unacceptable for Western Washington University faculty to say the N-word racial slur in the classroom."

Kristen Larson immediately tendered her resignation from the Academic Coordinating Commission.

REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Levi Eckman, *Associated Students Vice President for Academic Affairs*, reported that the spring Associated Student election is currently drawing to a close, stated that he would contact the Assistant Attorney General about legal means of pursuing motions intended to address the same issues as the rescinded motion, and expressed that he was looking forward to discussion of means of reevaluating and revising diversity requirements included within the general education program.

REVIEW OF CURRICULUM MINUTES

#	Committee	Date	Actions	Prepared by
R6	Previously returned by ACC	4/30/2019	ANTH 215 ACCEPTED	L. Ramhorst
T5	Expedited temporary courses	4/30/2019	EAST 497D, ESCI 497R, SMNR 297A, and SOCI 397W ACCEPTED	L. Ramhorst
80	Committee on Undergraduate Education (CUE)	4/4/2019	ACCEPTED pending clarification. ¹	J. Carmichael
79	College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS) CC	4/11/2019	ACCEPTED with comment. ²	K. Anderson

¹ CUE Chair Donna Qualley observed that language in CUE minutes of 4/4/2019 is misleading insofar as it suggests that the committee has come agreement upon a means of reducing the existing GUR competencies. Qualley clarified that no official action has been taken, and ACC requested that the minutes be updated to ensure that this is clear.

² Commissioners observed that the syllabus for HIST 397A, which was previously accepted by ACC on April 2nd, does not include class times or information about the length and frequency of classroom sessions.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Handbook Language on Repeatability and Topics Courses: Commissioners reviewed a draft document prepared by *Shared Governance Operations Manager* Lizzy Ramhorst outlining general categories of courses that are frequently offered as repeatable, possible handbook language that could be used to establish a template for consistently communicating repeatability in course descriptions, and additional questions and considerations that ACC may wish to address. Categories of courses that frequently include repeatability as an attribute include applied skills courses, topics courses, internships and practicums, independent research and theses, credit for study abroad programs, and credit for intercollegiate athletics.

No formal action was taken, but draft language discussed by commissioners included the following statements:

Maximum repeatability must be specified for all repeatable courses and clearly stated in courses descriptions using one of the following formats:

- For repeatable courses with variable credits: “Repeatable to a maximum of X credits, including original course”
- “Repeatable for credit up to X times, including original course.”
- “Repeatable with no maximum” is not acceptable.
- Repeatable topics courses must include specification in course description language that the course is only repeatable with different topics using the following format: “Repeatable with different topics to a maximum of X credits, including original course.” Sub-titles differentiating between topics must be communicated to the Registrar’s Office for all taught iterations of topics courses for inclusion on transcripts.
- Repeatable courses with GUR attributes must specify in course descriptions that they may only be taken once for GUR credit.

Additional questions for ACC consideration included whether or not it was desirable for the ACC to limit the number of times topics courses and other types of repeatable courses can be repeated, whether variable-credit topics courses are acceptable, and whether there should be a means of specifying and identifying applied skills courses that are likely to be repeated for the purpose of building a developmental skill base of improving fluency.

Registrar David Brunnemer stated that, once ACC has a chance to fully draft and approve a new policy or standards or repeatable courses, it would be desirable to determine a means of expediting changes to existing courses in order to ensure that students dependent on federal financial aid are not vulnerable in the event of an audit. *ACC Chair* Sheila Webb asked that a sortable spreadsheet with Catalog information about repeatable courses be shared with commissioners for the purpose of facilitating consideration of some of the outstanding questions.

Charge to CUE on General Education Diversity Requirements: *Committee on Undergraduate Education Chair* Donna Qualley presented a document to commissioners outlining recent recommendations and considerations that have been communicated by a variety of bodies, including the ACC, regarding existing general education diversity requirements and possible means of revising general education requirements to better align with 21st-century pedagogy. The ACC’s 2016-17 Report on Recommendations Improvements to General Education recommended replacing current ACGM and BCGM requirements with a new “diversity-equity-justice” (DEJ) attribute or designation that would be layered on top of appropriate HUM and SSC courses. This recommendation was indirectly taken up by CUE in its 2018 Writing Proposal, but the ACC has not yet directly charged CUE with making a formal recommendation on or implementing its proposal.

Qualley outlined questions, practical considerations, and challenges that CUE was likely to face in seeking to implement the DEJ requirement in the form proposed by ACC, asking first and foremost whether students were likely to be on board with the proposal. Qualley moreover observed work still to be done on the basis of the ACC’s recommendation that “thorough consideration be given to a question posed by the 2016 General Education Task Force: ‘How could we adopt a developmental approach to understanding diversity, giving our students an initial understanding of foundational diversity concepts, followed by an opportunity for students to explore in more depth?’”

Commissioners questioned the necessity and desirability of limited the proposed DEJ designation to Humanities and Social Science courses as proposed in the 2016-17 Report. *ACC Chair* Sheila Webb stated that at a future meeting, the ACC would work to draft a formal charge to CUE regarding its work on revising and implementing changes to diversity general education requirements.

ACTION ITEM

Report on Draft International Baccalaureate Equivalencies: Steve VanderStaay, *Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education*, provided background to commissioners on new legislative requirements regarding credit for standard- and higher-level International Baccalaureate (IB) exams. As discussed by ACC and Faculty Senate during fall quarter, VanderStaay sent IB exams and materials to relevant academic departments earlier this year with a request that departments make determinations about the appropriate level of credit to be assigned for scores of varying levels on the various IB exams.

VanderStaay observed most departments have increased or maintained the level of credit that will be awarded for IB exams and stated that Washington State law makes these assessments retroactive to the beginning of the 2018-19 academic year. History is the only WWU department that has arrived at an assessment that seeks to apply stricter standards awarding less credit in the future, and VanderStaay reported that in this instance, students would be able to claim credit under the more generous standard.

A **motion** (forwarded by Phil Thompson and seconded) **to accept** new International Baccalaureate equivalencies as reported (see Appendix A) with a proviso allowing departments to make small additional adjustments for the purpose of better aligning their assessments with those of the University of Washington and to allow departments to communicate future adjustments to IB equivalencies directly to the Registrar’s Office **passed** by unanimous vote with seven voting committee members present.

Meeting adjourned at 5:36 pm.

ACADEMIC COORDINATING COMMISSION – ROSTER 2018-19

VOTING ATTENDEES				NON-VOTING ATTENDEES			
Faculty				Advisory, non-voting			
1	Sheila Webb, <i>ACC Chair</i>	At-Large ~ Journalism	P	17	David Brunnemer, <i>Registrar</i>		P
2	Kristen Larson	A ~ Physics/Astronomy	P	18	Jamie Lawson, <i>Catalog Coordinator</i>		P
3	Paul Chen	B ~ Political Science	P	19	Lizzy Ramhorst, <i>Parliamentarian</i>		P
4	Joan Hoffman	C ~ MCL	--	Recorder			
5	Brittany Schade	D ~ Design	--	20	Vacant, <i>FS Administrative Assistant</i>		--
6	Phil Thompson, <i>Vice Chair</i>	E ~ Economics	P	Guests			
7	John Bower	F ~ Fairhaven	--	21	Tatum Buss, <i>Student Senator</i>		P
8	Rebekah Paci-Green	G ~ Environmental Studies	P	22	Marc Geisler, <i>Associate Dean, CHSS</i>		P
9	Tracy Thorndike	H ~ Special Education	P	23	Kate Kolpan, <i>Anthropology</i>		P
10	Michael Taylor	I ~ Wilson Library	--	24	Nick Makrakis, <i>Student Senator</i>		P
11	<i>Vacant</i>	Senator	--	25	Donna Qualley, <i>English</i>		P
Voting Ex Officio (total of one vote)							
12	Brent Carbajal, <i>Provost and VP for Academic Affairs</i>		--				
13	Steven VanderStaay, <i>Vice Provost for Undergrad Ed</i>		P				
Students							
14	Levi Eckman, <i>AS VP for AA</i>		P				
15	Jona Akelipa, <i>AS appointee, Student Senator</i>		P				
16	Nicole Ballard, <i>AS appointee, Student Senator</i>		P				
Voting members in attendance			10	Non-voting attendees			8
TOTAL							18

IB Subject	Scores	Course Equivalencies	Total Credits	Notes
Philosophy- HL	4-7	HUM GUR	15	
Philosophy-SL	4-7	HUM GUR	9	
Geography- HL	4-7	ENVS 204, non- lab Natural Sci. GUR 200 Social Science GUR	4 up to 5 up to 5	
Geography SL	4-7	ENVS 204 200 Social Science GUR	4 up to 5	
Theatre- HL		THTR 101 THTH 160 THTR 210 THTR 228 THTR 370 THTR 380 THTR 381 THTR 384	3 3 3 3 3 4 4 4	
Theatre- SL		THTR 101 THTH 160 THTR 210 THTR 228 THTR 370 THTR 380	3 3 3 3 3 3	
Dance- HL		DNC 231 DNC 232 DNC 242 DNC 257 DNC 342	3 3 3 2 3	
Dance- SL		DNC 231 DNC 232	3 3	
Math- HL	4 5 6 7	Placement into MATH 118 Math 118 Math 118 Math 124, Eligible and recommended for 138	No Credit 5 5 5	
Further Math- HL	5-7	Elective math Credits at 200 Le	15	
Math-SL	6-7	Math 112	5	
Math Studies- SL		No Credit		
Biology- HL	4-7	BIOL 101 BIOL 102 BIOL Elective/NS GUR	4 4 7	
Biology- SL	4-7	BIOL 101 BIOL 102	4 4	
History- HL The Americas	4-7	HIST Elective + HUM GUR HIST Elective + CGM Block B	10 5	
History- HL World	4-7	HIST Elective + HUM GUR HIST Elective + CGM Block A	10 5	
History- HL European	4-7	HIST Elective + HUM GUR HIST Elective + CGM Block A	10 5	
History- SL		No Credit		
English A- HL	4-7	ENG 101 ENG Humanities GUR	5 10	
Language and Literature- SL	4-7	English Elective GUR	10	

IB Subject	Scores	Course Equivalencies	Total Credits	Notes
English Literature- SL	4-7	English Elective GUR	10	
Literature and Performance-SL	4-7	English Elective GUR	10	
World Religions- SL	4-7	LBRL 332	5	Tentative
World Religions- HL		LBRL 333	5	Tentative
		5-10 REL Elective Credit	5-10	Tentative
Physics- SL	4-7	PHYS 114, PHYS 115	10	
Physics- HL	4-7	PHYS 114	5	
		PHYS 115	5	
		PHYS 116	5	
Psychology- SL		No Credit		
Psychology- HL	5-7	PSY 101	5	
Global Politics- SL	4-7	PLSC 101	3	
		PLSC 271	3	
		PLSC 390	3	
Global Politics- HL	4-7	PLSC 101	5	
		PLSC 271	5	
		PLSC 390	5	
World Languages	4-7	UW Equivalencies		