

MINUTES
COMMISSION ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES
President's Board Room
October 14, 1991

PRESENT: Dr. E.F. Carlisle, Chair; Deans J. White, M. Ogliaruso, D. Egger, N. Spencer, J. Marchman, R. Purdy, J. Crunkilton for M. Lewis; Drs. C. Shoulders, J. Taper, B. Reed, P. Feret, M. Murray, K. Eschenmann, L. Geyer, R. Daniel; C. Burch-Brown; W. Dean, University Registrar; D. Bousquet, Admissions; M. McGuire, B. Haddican, SGA.

ABSENT: Drs. M. Deisenroth, D. Morris, B. Sgro; E. Fox, D. Lubin, SGA

VISITORS: Elizabeth Guertin, Guy Hammond, James Craig, Jon Shepherd, Paul Knox

1. Call to Order and Announcements:

Dr. Carlisle called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

2. The Agenda was approved as distributed.

3. The Minutes of the September 23, 1991 meeting were approved as distributed.

4. Course Criteria Committee Report - J. White

Dr. White offered for first reading the October 14, 1991 report.

A motion was made and seconded to approve for second reading the September 23, 1991 report. The motion **carried**.

Courses approved effective Fall 1991:

- FST 3214 Principles of Meat Science
- Geol 3104 Elementary Geophysics (revised)

Courses approved effective Spring 1992:

- Biol 1005,1006 General Biology (revised)
- Biol 1015,1016 Principles of Biology (revised)
- Biol 1115,1116 Principles of Biology Laboratory (revised)
- IHDM 4414 Professionalism in Consumer Affairs
- ISE 2204 Manufacturing Processes (revised)

Courses approved effective Fall 1992:

- Bion 3114 Biochemistry for Biotechnology
- Bion 3124 Biochemical Techniques for Biotechnology and the Life Sciences
- ISE 4205-4206 Industrial Systems Design (revised)
- SOC 4754 Internship

Action on Curriculum Checklists and Options:

- Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences, for all options, graduating class of 1993
- Foreign Languages and Literature Checklist, Russian Minor, graduating class of 1992
- Foreign Languages and Literature Checklist, Russian Area Studies (RAS) concentration, retroactive to Spring 1991, concentration to appear on transcript

Other:

- Horticulture Articulation Agreement with the Virginia Community Colleges, effective for the entering class of 1992

5. Discussion, Liberal Education Forum - Members, Liberal Education Forum

Carol Burch-Brown, chair of the University Forum on Liberal Education (UFL.E), introduced members of the forum and reminded the commission that the discussions generated by the draft proposal will be used in constructing final recommendations. She stressed that UFL.E is

recommending a modified framework of the core. The draft report is a plan for the structure and framework for the core rather than the actual core. She suggested that reviewers of the draft ask whether "this framework is an adequate basis for liberal education in the university?" UFLE deliberated using two basic assumptions: a) that liberal education is crucial in a world that requires more specialization and b) that resources are finite requiring the prioritizing of choices. Also Professor Burch-Brown stressed that members of UFLE felt that providing flexibility within a coherent framework was strategically important in planning the new core.

During general discussion, several college representatives shared their comments relative to the draft report. Dr. Marchman voiced concern that the recommendations did not include a proviso for college restrictions of certain courses. Professor Burch-Brown responded that members had received much feedback, both pro and con, relative to this issue. The steering committee has asked the Dean's Council to discuss the issue of restrictions and to share any comments with UFLE as well as with CUS. Dr. Marchman also raised the issue of the loss of "clusters" and the impact on the requirements of "breadth and depth" by the College of Engineering's accreditation agency (ABET). Dr. Hammond suggested that UFLE can make a strong case that defining "areas of study" for the university core are discipline oriented and do include consideration of the issue of "breadth and depth." Dr. Shepherd added that the task force never presupposed dictating technical courses for the colleges. However, he noted that discussion of any request for restriction will require discussion.

Dr. White asked whether much comment had been generated regarding the addition of additional courses in the core, especially since many areas are over crowded with requirements. Professor Burch-Brown clarified that there was only one (1) credit hour of additional requirements.

Dr. Ogliaruso shared four concerns of the College of Arts and Sciences:

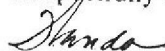
- disappointment that written communications seems to have greater emphasis than oral communication
- no requirement for inclusion of outcomes assessment guidelines
- loss of sequences, especially since the rewrite of the curriculum during the semester conversion resulted in artificial "breaks" for sequential courses
- additional hours in university core will adversely impact the college's efforts to reduce its overall degree requirements from 126 semester hours to 120 semester hours

Dr. Hammond, in responding to the issue of written vs. oral communications, noted that the section detailing writing and discourse does include reference to oral communication but perhaps should include more specific references.

Dr. Marchman restated his concern that the draft does not include reference to specific courses. He cited as example the area of Global Issues. He questioned which courses currently satisfy this requirement and he asked whether this area is reflective of some new "fad"? Professor Burch-Brown responded that UFLE is not a curriculum committee and would not presume to assume responsibilities of the faculty, colleges, and CUS in approving courses. Dr. White noted that an area such as Global Issues may generate more course revision activity. Professor Burch-Brown answered that such revisions are expected and hoped for by UFLE. Dr. Shoulders questioned the primary motivation for elimination of sequences. Dr. Shepherd responded that two reasons were the desire to provide more flexibility for students and to spread resources among departments. Dr. Egger urged UFLE to include guidelines for outcomes assessment especially since two of the goals of outcomes assessment are included in the UFLE report. Dr. Hammond voiced concern relative to this suggestion. He suggested that the university set educational goals first without regard to external requirements. Dr. Marchman questioned the resources demanded for the one hour course. He asked whether students will be required to pay additional fees for plays, concerts, etcetera to fulfill the requirement? Professor Burch-Brown responded that yes, students will pay for tickets as part of their purchase of materials for the course. She also said that there is strong interest and support within the Performing Arts Division. Dr. Carlisle also responded that regardless of changes in the current university core the issue of sufficient resources to support the university core will be of primary importance.

6. Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Wanda Hankins Dean
University Registrar