



**Western Connecticut State University
Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum and Standards
CUCAS Minutes for November 19th, 2015
SC 202 (MT)**

2015 - 2016 Members Present - Nicholas Greco (Chair), Keith Gauvin, Jerry Wilcox, Missy Alexander, Jamie Begian, J.C. Barone, Ming Ling Chuang, Barbara Piscopo, Dave Smith, Linda Dalessio, Jessica Eckstein, Katie Lever-Mazzuto, Alina Sherwani, Douglas Brede, Brendan Mitchell

Members not present: Jess House, David Martin, Divya Sharma, Timothy Wiggins, Kiely Hultgren

Guests: Jennifer Zdziarski, Jolee Dinho-Guerreiro, Terri Small, Catherine O’Callaghan, Patrice Boily, Ann Atkinson, Paula Maida, Danielle William-Jones (Student), Maya Aloni, Mary Ann Rossi, Deneen Harris

Called to order at 9:30 a.m.

Minutes:

1. Minutes of CUCAS Meeting from October 15th, 2015
 - Motion to approve: Jess Eckstein, 2nd; Barbara Piscopo
 - Discussions/Corrections: None
 - #Approved: 13 / Opposed: 0

Announcements: None

Reports:

1. Course Level Definition Subcommittee – (M. Alexander)
 - ❖ There was no Course Level Definition Subcommittee Meeting so Missy had nothing to report at this time.
2. General Education Committee Report – (T. Wiggins)
 - ❖ Tim was not present. Missy commented on being very excited about approving new courses. The Gen Ed website has a description of the approval process. There are about 8 more FY courses that are needed. We have 22 and need 30.

Old Business: None

New Business:

1. Proposals from the Education and Education Psychology Department (C. O’Callaghan)
 - a. New Course: ED 211 Educational Psychology: Children and Adolescents I (CD 1415123)
 - b. New Course: ED 212 Educational Psychology: Children and Adolescents II (CD 1415124)
 - Motion to approve as a packet: Jess Eckstein, 2nd; Barbara Piscopo
 - Discussion: Catherine O’Callaghan explained that these 2 courses were approved in May 2014 and that the program sheet that was approved last year had these listed as gen ed, and the registrar’s office stated that they had to be brought to the gen ed committee again and it is more of a “housekeeping procedure”. Keith questioned if it is ED 211 or EPY 211. Catherine stated that it was approved as ED 211. Nick asked if Catherine can make sure to attach the other minutes stating



they are approved as a course or he can get them. Nick stated the second course has a clearer learning outcome and the first course has a tremendous number of them. Catherine stated since the first includes early development and that could be why. Nick stated that in terms of when they will be offered in Sharepoint it states every semester and in one document it states only in the spring. Catherine stated that ED 211 will be Fall and ED 212 would be Spring. Nick asked if that could be updated in Sharepoint. Nick was questioning if ED 211 should be a prerequisite for ED 212 or if you can take the second without the first, Catherine stated you can take the second without the first. Nick asked what the field experience was and Catherine stated there would be 20 hours per semester.

- # Approved: 13 / Opposed: 0

2. Proposal from the Communication Department (K. Wiss)

a. New Course: COM 1XX Orientation to Communication & Media Arts Major (CD 1516013)

- Motion to approve: Barbara Piscopo. 2nd Missy Alexander
- Discussion: Jessica Eckstein stated that this would be similar to what other departments are doing. This course would be not only an introduction to the major but also for incoming freshman. This would only be allowed for incoming freshman. Missy asked if this was going to be a FY course and Jess stated that it wasn't proposed as one but it would be. Keith asked if this would be the "lowest level" course for numbering purposes and Jess stated yes.
- # Approved: 13 / Opposed: 0

3. Proposal from Social Work Department (P. Ivy)

a. Social Work Free Elective Reduction (CD1516033)

- Motion to approve: Missy Alexander. 2nd Barbara Piscopo
- Discussion: Missy asked that the 4 year plan be edited so the numbers are correct. Keith asked if there would be enough less than 3 credit courses to fill the difference since 125 will be hard to reach. Deneen stated it would be more on what option they chose. Nick stated there are some mis-credit hours on the senior year. The math of the credits needs to be updated and once the program sheet was updated for it to be sent to him.
- # Approved: 14 / Opposed: 0

4. Proposal from the Biological and Environmental Sciences Department (P. Boily)

a. New Contract Major: Human Biology and Community Health Studies (CD1516052)

- Motion to approve: Missy Alexander. 2nd Dave Smith
- Discussion: Pat stated there is a narrative attached that explains. Nick stated that the only thing he would add is a 300 or 400 level course as a suggestion.
- # Approved: 14 / Opposed: 0

5. Proposal from CUCAS (N. Greco)

a. Revise the faculty handbook Guidelines on Degrees (CD1516057)

- Motion to approve: Jess Eckstein. 2nd JC Barone
- Discussion: Missy stated that this would have to go to senate but she would like the body to review it first. Current handbook does not have certain definitions. It just states that this is what an undergraduate degree is. The current definition states that a major is 30-39 credit hours, Interdisciplinary is 48-54. Per the current degrees no one really conforms to that. Faculty has asked to change to a BS and Missy has not had a way to do so. There is no Federal or State definition of a BS or BA. The only definition states that an undergraduate degree BA or BS must have a minimum of 120 credits. The definition Missy came up with was percentage of courses in major vs out of major. Missy tried to make



definitions that are easy to follow and she has added the concept of cognate courses. There are different rules for everyone and that isn't reasonable. Keith asked if there was thought about upper level courses in each department. Missy stated no, that is really per department. Please send Missy any and all feedback.

- Tabled
6. Proposal from the Philosophy & Humanistic Studies (S. Dalton)
- a. New Contract Major – Philosophy (CD1516058)
 - Motion to approve: Jess Eckstein. 2nd Jamie Begian
 - Discussion: Stuart wasn't available but he felt everything was self-explanatory. Nick stated the only thing he had was for him to remove some gen ed requirements to make it easier for future students.
 - # Approved: 14 / Opposed: 0
7. Proposal from the Psychology Department (S. Murphy)
- a. New Course – PSY 3XX Close Relationships (CD1516081)
 - Motion to approve: Jess Eckstein. 2nd Missy Alexander
 - Discussion: Maya stated that this course has been done as a Faculty Independent Study and it went really well. Students are required to write a lot and it is discussion based. Maya would like to change the title to the Psychology of Close Relationships and the prereq is 205. Nick asked to have it sent to him. Nick asked if it would be a free elective or if it fit into the PSY electives. Maya stated it is not required it would fit either elective requirement.
 - # Approved: 14 / Opposed: 0
8. Proposal from the Mathematics Department (J. Hamer)
- a. New Contract Major – Mentoring in Mathematics (CD1516091)
 - Motion to approve: Missy Alexander. 2nd Jess Eckstein
 - Discussion: Missy stated this sort of degree does exist at other schools.
 - # Approved: 14 / Opposed: 0

Discussion of information not on Agenda:

- Barbara asked about field experience and how do departments get to a determination of their hours. Nick stated that each department it may be slightly different. Nick has always taken it as the amount of time taken that needs to be studied outside of class. Missy stated this may be something for everyone to bring from their departments and for everyone to discuss.

Motion to adjourn: Missy Alexander 2nd B. Piscopo. The meeting was adjourned at 10:16 a.m.