

WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY  
MARCICOSTAS SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCE  
PROGRAM REVIEW COMMITTEE

Minutes from the October 12, 2018 Meeting Held at 10am in Warner Hall Room 315

**Present:** Michelle Brown, Paul Echeverria, Jessica Eckstein, Rondall Khoo, Helena Prieto, Forest Robertson.

**Visitor:** Pat Boily, Stuart Dalton, Anna Malavisi, Patrick Ryan.

**Scribe:** Forest Robertson

Meeting commenced at 10:04AM.

**Old Business:**

1. September Meeting Minutes (PE) were approved unanimously (FR/HP).
2. WRT 3XX Methods of Peer Consulting in Writing (CD1718151) was tabled at previous meeting, but issues with the proposal were resolved with the author and the proposal was removed from the system.
3. New Biology graduate courses for MS in Integrative Bio Diversity were tabled at previous meeting, but after contacting the author of the course proposal the Chair pro forma “rejected” it on Sharepoint and it was agreed that the proposal would be resubmitted as two distinct proposals.
4. The Chemistry proposal (CD1819001) to change Chemistry and Biochemistry degrees from BA to BS was tabled at previous meeting and after contacting the proposal author the Chair pro forma “rejected” it on Sharepoint and it was agreed that the proposal would be resubmitted with the addition of the necessary documents.

**New Business:**

1. Proposal from the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences
  - a. The new biology graduate course BIO 5XX Applied Stewardship (CD1819021) was unanimously approved (HP/PE) after it was agreed upon that if the course does not make it through governance before the Spring 2019 semester, that it would be offered as a BIO 598 course (SP19) so that current, accepted graduate students would not be kept from beginning their graduate program.
2. Proposal from the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences
  - a. The new biology graduate course BIO 5XX Stewardship Seminar (CD1819022) was unanimously approved (FR/HP).
3. Proposals from the Writing Department
  - a. The three writing course proposals (CD1819023, CD1819025, CD1819026), which all added the CP competency were considered as a package and unanimously approved (HP/FR).
4. Proposal from the Philosophy and Humanistic Studies Department
  - a. The new humanities course HUM 2XX Immigration: Rights & Wrongs (CD1819029) under item #8 from the agenda was considered before all other proposals due to the proposal author’s time-sensitive schedule. However, before a motion to consider this current proposal was put forth, a lengthy discussion was had that covered the following topics. The Philosophy and Humanistic Studies Department submitted 15 proposals for new courses, which raised serious concerns about the number of courses that were currently offered by this Department and the number of courses that would be offered if the Committee approved all 15 new courses. It was discovered that the Department would be deleting 3 Humanities courses from the course

catalog, which would bring the number of courses offered to 19 courses in the catalog with 2 courses being offered “periodically.” Stuart stated that there would be no need to hire more adjuncts due to the increase in new courses because there are now 3 full-time faculty members in the Department that would teach 10 of the 19 courses, while the remaining 9 courses would be taught by part-time faculty; the Department currently employs 9-10 part-time faculty members so this provides evidence that the Department is not increasing the number of part-time faculty members by proposing these 15 new courses. In another line of questioning it was discovered that three of the new courses (CD1819030, CD1819031, CD1819032) were proposed and intended to be taught by part-time faculty members; the Committee stated that it was concerned that full-time faculty members would not be teaching these courses because it is bad practice to put courses into the catalog that only part-time faculty could teach and it is difficult to plan and guarantee that those courses could actually be taught. Anna stated that she would be able to teach CD1819030 and CD1819031, which alleviated the concerns of the Committee for these two proposals; it was stated that CD1819032 would be solely taught by Susan Ironbiter (part-time faculty) during the Summer, which was a concern of the Committee. However, Stuart stated that she taught this course at SUNY Purchase and has all of the necessary contacts in India; in addition, there is precedence for travel abroad courses to be taught by adjuncts at WCSU, which alleviated concerns of the Committee. All courses will be sent to UPBC for review and approval. After this lengthy discussion, CD1819029 was unanimously approved (RK/HP) barring that the language under outcome #2 for the IC competency is changed from “Course requirements include a **blog** where students...” to “Assignments may include blogs...” and the course level is changed to HUM 2XX.

5. Proposal from the Philosophy and Humanistic Studies Department
  - a. The new humanities course HUM 1XX FY for the Humanities (CD1819028) was unanimously approved (RK/HP) barring that the course level is changed to HUM 1XX.
6. Proposal from the Philosophy and Humanistic Studies Department
  - a. The new minor in Intellectual History (CD1819027) was unanimously approved (FR/PE) barring that PHI 3XX Women Philosophers: Past & Present is approved.
7. Proposal from the Philosophy and Humanistic Studies Department
  - a. The new crosslisted humanities course HUM/HPX 2XX Indigenous Spirituality & Environmental Activism (CD1819030) was unanimously approved (FR/PE) barring that the course level is changed to HUM/HPX 2XX.
8. Proposal from the Philosophy and Humanistic Studies Department
  - a. The new crosslisted humanities course HUM/HPX 2XX Approaches to Well-being in Indo-Tibetan Philosophy (CD1819031) was unanimously approved (FR/PE) barring that the language in the proposal rationale that included, “Considering that students...mental health issues...” is removed and the course level is changed to HUM/HPX 2XX.
9. Proposal from the Philosophy and Humanistic Studies Department
  - a. The new crosslisted humanities course HUM/HPX 3XX Tibetan Buddhist Philosophy Art & Culture (CD1819032) was rejected pro forma because the CE competency will be removed because it prevents a broader group of students from taking the course, a two-level outline needs to be included, the rationale needs to be bolstered, the “As brought...practice” language in the course description needs to be removed, the course level needs to be changed to HUM/HPX 3XX, and Stuart will speak with Gallina to understand how her Department runs their Summer study abroad courses on an annual basis (MB/FR).
10. Proposal from the Philosophy and Humanistic Studies Department

- a. The new humanities course HUM 2XX Thinking about Race was rejected pro forma because the discussion on how the course will meet the outcomes of the OC competency needs to be revised; these include outcomes #2 and #3 because the assignments are “written” assignments for an OC competency, and outcomes #4 and #5 need to be addressed. In addition, change the course level to HUM 2XX (FR/MB).
11. Proposal from the Philosophy and Humanistic Studies Department
  - a. The new humanities course HUM 3XX Refugees Ancient & Modern (CD1819034) was rejected pro forma because an assessment is needed and the course level needs to be changed to HUM 3XX. It was also discussed how this course might be included in the future “Hellenistic Studies” minor and that this course might be taught by the Macricostas Scholar. To offset the number of courses in the Philosophy and Humanistic Studies Department’s course rotation, and to accommodate the teaching desires of the Macricostas Scholar it was suggested that the course could be “warehoused.” Furthermore, this course will be offered in Spring 2019 as a HUM 398; therefore, our Committee will reject and the Department can submit again at a future date once the details of the potential “Hellenistic Studies” minor are articulated. It was also suggested that data on the demand for this course be gathered via student surveys (during the Spring 2019 semester) to strengthen the proposal in the future (HP/RK).
12. Proposal from the Philosophy and Humanistic Studies Department
  - a. The new humanities course HUM 2XX Alexander the Great & Hellenistic Age (CD1819035) was rejected pro forma for many of the same reasons that were mentioned above for CD1819034 (HP/RK).
13. Proposals from the Philosophy and Humanistic Studies Department
  - a. Items #15-21 (CD1819036, CD1819037, CD1819038, CD1819039, CD1819040, CD1819041, CD1819042) were tabled until the next meeting because a quorum was lost.
14. Request that three current members volunteer to extend their terms by 1 year
  - a. Tabled until the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Forest Robertson