

College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Assembly

Agenda

January 12, 2024

2:00pm in Kinard 018

- I. Welcome – Dr. Dave Pretty
 - a. Meeting called to order at 2:04 pm
 - b. Quorum met

- II. Approval of Minutes from October 6, 2023, meeting ([Appendix A](#))
 - a. Minutes approved

- III. CAS Committees
 - a. CAS Curriculum Committee – Dr. Valerie Jepsen ([Appendix B](#))
 - i. Curriculum Actions
 - Changes:
 - SCWK changes to require course be taken for a grade
 - Approved
 - New courses
 - New BIO courses aimed at teaching students to use and manipulate data
 - PLSC 340 Added a comparative Africa/Latin America course
 - SCWK & WRIT were X courses that were popular
 - New programs
 - Pre-law tracks were added for Philosophy and Political Science
 - ii. 36 Hour Rule discussion
 - Curriculum Committee discussed issue but did not feel like there was enough information to make a recommendation either way.
 - Dean Sumter provided some background on the issue:
 - When students bump up against the 36 rule, records and registration has to do a lot of manual work behind the scenes to make it work. There are many program is A&S that would be impacted by the change. Within the Dean’s council there was unanimous and enthusiastic support. Other institutions do not have this same requirement.
 - Thomas Polaski (Math): Asked for clarification about the 36 hour rule in terms of courses counting towards the major versus the degree versus the hours needed to graduate.
 - Kristin Abernathy (Math): the issue arises when students take more courses in one designator not to meet degree requirements, but in order to meet the 120 hours to graduate. When that happens, though, the courses do not end up counting toward their 120 hours. Provided example from math where exactly 36 hours are required in Math for the major. Some students want to take more Math courses because they like it, even though they’ve met their major requirements.
 - Brent Woodfill (Sociology, Criminology, Anthropology): Made the case that the point of a BA is to be a generalist and to try a diversity of courses. The 36 hour rule is in place to push students to diversity and not just take courses in one discipline.
 - Jennifer Disney (Political Science, Philosophy, Religion, & Legal Studies): Stated that they have seen this issue come up a lot as chair. Made the case that the general education program requires students to get outside their comfort zone. Also stated that there is diversity within disciplines (designators), and many cross-listed courses. Unclear why

the rule is in place for the BA but not for the BS. Indicated they are in favor of eliminating rule.

- Adolphus Belk Jr. (Political Science, Philosophy, Religion, & Legal Studies): Indicated that in the current situation, programs are evaluated on credit hour production. Eliminating the rule would allow students to keep taking classes in a particular designator, helping enrollment numbers in those courses.
- Frank Pullano (Math): Asked for clarification as to whether the rule is about hours toward degree or toward the major.
- Disney: Responded that it was toward the major.
- Pullano: Asked if it was possible to keep limit for major and removing limit toward degree.
- Disney: Reported that they often see students who have done general education, major, and minor requirements and still have a number credit hours left to take.
- Michael Sickles (Sociology, Criminology, Anthropology): Stated that the minor forces you to choose something outside your major and add diversity. They reported that they encounter the issue most with students who aim to go to graduate school. The rule these students' ability to get more training in the discipline they plan to pursue.
- Dave Pretty (History): [abdicated chair to Jepsen temporarily] Stated that the issue is a technical one for records and registration. Asked that we considered whether this is an issue with the rule or an issue with Degree Works. Stated that they think about the BS and BA as different approaches to education, with the BS serving more as an apprenticeship for a specific field, and the BA as a broader training and experience. Felt that this change would undermine Winthrop's identity as a liberal arts college. Felt that to approve this would dismantle the distinction between BA and BS degrees.
- Sara English (Social Work): Motion to table. Motion seconded. Opposed by majority
- Disney: Motion to remove rule. Motion seconded. Voice vote. Outcome unclear
- Polaski: Motion to vote by show of hands. Motion seconded.
 - Aye: 42
 - **Motion passed**

iii. Next meeting 2/20. Materials should be submitted a week in advance

~~b. AFTP Committee Update – Dr. Margaret Gillikin~~

i. No committee update

IV. University Advancement – Kevin Hughes (VP University Advancement) and Allison Morton (Development officer)

- a. Hughes: provided an overview of what University Advancement does and the role that faculty play in supporting their interactions with potential donors. When faculty and department communicate their needs to the office, they are better equipped to match donors with need. Indicated that the office is making an effort to reach out to a broader pool of alumni and potential donors.
- b. Morton: is the Development Officer assigned to A&S. Office located in Kinard 210. Wants to know faculty needs. Donor conversations can go in many different directions. Is reaching out to Deans to learn more about funding priorities. In general the timeline from a conversation with a donor to the receipt of donation is 12-16 mos.
- c. Day of giving 4/16-17. Asked willing faculty to reach out to former students.

V. Innovative Course offerings for Summer-Dr. Greg Oakes (Dr. Oakes was unwell, so Dean

Sumter provided update)

- a. Background
 - i. Oakes is on a committee focused on capitalizing summer enrollment.
- b. Compensation
 - i. Provost sent out outline of changes to summer compensation policy. Primary changes:
 - 12 students required to get full \$5000 compensation
 - Per student rate is 420 per student
 - 18 students required to receive 7.5% of salary.
- c. Program and Course Offerings
 - i. Last year courses were organized into two summer institutes. This did not change the courses offered, but provided a way of talking about the summer offerings.
 - ii. Last year they promoted their partnership with Kaplan, which offers discounts on testing
 - iii. Asking departments to talk about:
 - New institutions or options to offer
 - Thoughts on courses that that should be offered.
 - Other creative ideas. For example, could a minor be completed over the summer?
- d. Discussion
 - i. Pullano: Asked if there is an office that is responsible for communicating information about summer courses.
 - ii. Sumter: Office of Extended Learning. Office is asking for feedback and input from Chairs by the end of this month. Sumter indicated they are interested in offerings being marketed outside of Winthrop.

VI. Old Business

- a. No old business

VII. New Business

- a. No new business

VIII. Remarks from the Dean – Dr. Takita F. Sumter

- a. Enrollment and retention updates:
 - i. 65 more grad students this year. 17 fewer UG this year than last.
 - ii. Just over 100 new students and transfers this semester
 - iii. Retention ~90%
 - iv. Fall 2024 numbers from Enrollment office
 - Up 42% on accepts
 - Up 11% on those with deposits
- b. Facilities changes
 - i. Exterior improvements
 - ii. Technology improvements in classrooms. Goal is that classroom technology will be consistent across campus.
 - Training resources have been emailed. IT will be offering additional training (will be communicated through daily digest).
 - Casey Cothran (English): Asked if faculty can go to CPE or the library to practice.
 - Sumter: Stated that the library should be open for faculty to use equipment. CPE will probably require an appointment. Kinard 102 is set up with technology and is not scheduled back to back, so there are open times when faculty to use the equipment there.
 - Sumter:
 - Asked how many people teach in Kinard 102. Stated that new

- furniture is coming soon.
 - Asked how the bar height tables are working for student learning.
 - Margaret Gilliken (History): Stated that many students are used to the seating from their high school. Bar height tables make it easier for students to see if they are in the back.
 - Sumter: Indicated that many selection have been informed by what's being done at local schools. Asked that faculty communicate questions and concerns.
 - Possible challenges if there were a lot of students needing who use wheelchairs.
 - Sarah Titman (Social Work): Stated that there is a lot of furniture in Kinard 101.
 - Sumter: Indicated that the aim for the room was to facilitate collaborative learning while maintaining high capacity. There is room for changes for the Fall
- c. Searches
- i. 10 faculty searches underway.
- d. ASBMB reaccredited through 2030. Kudos given to Nick Grosseohme and others that worked on this.
- e. Money from the Dean's office was used to help remove financial barriers for students who were not registered for spring semester.
- f. Scholarship cycle for students opens 2/1. Students will get an email. Faculty asked to encourage students to apply.
- g. Dalton and Sims renovation: architects hired and plans drawn.
- h. Next Thursday new provost begins. New provost has asked to meet with departments. Meetings will include the Provost, Dean, Chair and faculty. Goal is to have a 20 min overview from Chair, open discussion, and walk through in department.
- i. Strategic plan was approved by the board in December. President is finalizing actual document. Provides direction for the next 3 years.
- j. Wanda Koszewski (Human Nutrition): Asked why emails about staff hours during campus closure are being sent so late.
 - i. Sumter: Indicated that part of the issues is the timing of a state of emergency from the governor. Staff have the option (some) to work remotely or to make up the hours, or they can take leave.
 - ii. Koszewski: Stated that since time cards due on 1/15, staff are not able to make up the time.
 - iii. Sumter: Confirmed that staff would then have to take leave.
- k. Belk: Asked if it was possible to donate leave time?
 - i. Sumter: Stated that leave cannot be donated to a specific person, only to a pool.
 - ii. Disney: Asked how we can donate to that pool
 - iii. Sumter: Clarified that it is a state-wide pool. It is not specific to Winthrop.
- l. Ginger Williams (History): Asked for more information about the state of the fund used to support students who run into financial barriers for registering.
 - i. Sumter: Dean's Excellence fund annual restricted fund. Used to support faculty, staff, and students as needed. Currently stands at around \$14,000. Was recently given additional money from outside source over the holidays.
- m. Other kudos:
 - i. Woodfill's new film
 - ii. Opening of GIS research lab

IX. Announcements

- a. Research Council Applications Now Open

- i. There are two funding categories for which to apply: Faculty Research and Faculty Research with Student Co-Investigator. Applications are due to the Dean's office by January 29th and will be routed to the Grant Office by the January 31, 2024 deadline.
 - b. Professional Development Travel Submission Deadline of 1/15/24 EXTENDED TO 2/1/24 (last opportunity to travel before June 30th)
 - c. Next Faculty Assembly meeting will take place 3/1 2:00 pm in Kinard 018
 - i. Agenda materials due by 2/23
 - ii. Materials for presentations due by 2/29
 - d. Koszewski: Food box re-opened M-R 7-3:30, Fri 12-1. Hit with many students over break. Canned chicken breast donations wanted.
 - e. Sickles: (Updates from Undergraduate Research)
 - i. Abstracts for SOURCE due in mid-March
 - ii. SOURCE conference will be held April 12
 - iii. Students can submit abstracts without presenting at the conference.
 - iv. Travel support for students is available for presentations at conferences (see website)
 - f. Stovall: the subcommittee on faculty retention is reinstating First Friday lunches in February.
 - g. English: Tuesday Tuneups start 2/13. Focused on mental health and mindfulness.
- X. Adjournment

Note: Quorum (35% of full-time faculty) is 49 faculty members for Faculty Assembly.
The minimum attendance to do business (20% of full-time faculty) is 28 faculty members.

Appendix A

College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Assembly

Minutes

Kinard 018, October 6, 2023 2:00 pm

- I. Welcome—Dave Pretty
 - a. Meeting called to order at 2:01 pm
- II. Approval of Minutes from September 1, 2023, meeting (Appendix A)
 - a. Cory Lundquist: Under Presentation by Office of Accessibility, Karry Medlin (Testing and Operations), should instead read **Karen** Medlin.
 - b. Approved with corrections
- III. CAS Committees
 - a. CAS Curriculum Committee—Valerie Jepsen (Appendix B)
 - i. Changes in numbering of Chemistry courses necessitated changes to other programs for which the course is a prerequisite.
 1. Numerous Biology courses made changes to prerequisites
 2. Other Biology courses updated goals, descriptions, and prerequisites
 3. Human Nutrition updated prerequisite for several courses
 - ii. Sociology 201. Name change from Principles of Sociology to Introduction to Sociology.
 - iii. New courses
 - iv. All course changes approved
 - v. New Program: BA in Criminal Justice
 1. Two tracts
 - a. General Criminal Justice
 - b. Cyber and Corporate Crime
 2. New program approved
 - vi. Several course proposals were erroneously approved previously due to transition to CourseDog. These have now been approved by the Curriculum Committee and were brought to the Faculty Assembly for approval.
 1. Tom Polaski: MATH 216 on slide should read MATH 261
 2. Courses approved
 - vii. Courses not needing approval.
 1. No discussion
 - viii. Next Curriculum Committee meeting October 24, 2023 in Kinard 105 11:00 am
 - b. CAS Diversity and Inclusion Committee –Hope Lima and Takita Sumter
 - i. Presentation of IDEA Award (2022-2023)
 1. 5 summaries received
 2. Honorable Mentions:
 - a. English: courses highlight works by individuals from underrepresented groups. Podcast.
 - b. Mass Communication: relaunch of Indigenous Film Series

- c. Political Science: Faculty led DEI workshops. Organized sexuality and gender equality week
 - d. Social Work: Honoring Black Social Workers award.
 - 3. Award presented to Department of Biology
 - a. Highlights of some of the department's efforts: Hosting DEI events; department DEI committee; DEI-oriented invited speaker; Biology Success Committee focused on student retention and graduation rates; graduating student survey with demographic data to measure student feedback on program.
 - b. Daniel Stovall, Chair of the Biology Success Committee, received the award. Department also recognized Jennifer Schafer and Lauren Brasington as chairs of the DEI committee
 - c. Department of Biology received a plaque and a grant to support additional DEI efforts.
- IV. Old Business
 - a. No old business
- V. New Business
 - a. No new business
- VI. Remarks from the Dean—Takita Sumter
 - a. Welcome: Nikole J. Kidd, as new Director of Field Education in Social Work. A Howard alum previously at Johnson C Smith University and a Winthrop adjunct.
 - b. Enrollment
 - i. Enrollment Update for Fall 2023
 - 1. Highlighted several programs that have increased their enrollments in 2023 over 2022: Biology, English, Environmental Programs, Data Science, Political Science, Modern Languages
 - ii. CAS is working to help build enrollment and support retention
 - iii. Completed applications for Fall 2024 show significant increase in CAS over 2022 and 2023
 - 1. Highlighted several programs that have increased enrollments: English, History, Mass Communication, STEM disciplines
 - c. Faculty kudos: highlighted accomplishments by faculty, including new publications, grants awarded and submitted, and student and professional development efforts.
- VII. Announcements
 - a. SURE Poster session Today 10/6/2023, 3:00 – 5:00 pm in Richardson Ballroom
 - b. Encore Distinguished Lectures Series: Friday Nov 10, 2023 from 2:15 – 4:45 pm
 - i. Dr. Guy Reel
 - ii. Dr. Janice Chism
 - iii. Dr. Donald Rakestraw
 - c. CAS faculty advising session 10/12/2023 11:30-12:15, location TBD

- d. Cory Lundquist (Faculty Committee on University Life): Asks faculty to bring any concerns or proposals for FCUL. Also reminds faculty that today (10/6/23) is the final day to complete FCUL wellbeing survey (by 5:00 pm).
- e. Next CAS Faculty Assembly scheduled for 1/12/2024. Agenda items due by 1/5/2024
- f. Greg Oaks: Curriculum committee meets on 1/2/2024. Asks faculty to submit curriculum for spring before the holidays to be considered at the meeting.
- g. Grad faculty committee meets immediately after adjournment.
- h. Takita Sumter: Two weddings in CAS
 - i. Kim Painter (staff member in Chemistry) and Stefan Wunderlich (staff member in Biology)
 - ii. Hope Lima (Human Nutrition)

VIII. Adjournment

- a. Adjourned: 2:38 pm

Note: Quorum (35% of full-time faculty) is 49 faculty members for Faculty Assembly. The minimum attendance to do business (20% of full-time faculty) is 28 faculty members.

Minutes submitted by Lauren E. Kohut

Appendix B

College of Arts and Sciences
Curriculum Committee Minutes
December 5, 2023 @ 11:00 am
Kinard 015

Attendees: Jennifer Disney (chair of the Department of Political Science, Philosophy, Religion & Legal Studies), Sara English, Ryan Harris (student representative), Katharine Hubbard, Jason Hurlbert, Valerie Jepson, Tom Polaski, Dave Pretty, Jenny Schafer

1. Welcome

- Katharine Hubbard has joined the committee

2. Approval of meeting minutes

- Minutes from October 24, 2023 approved

3. New Programs

Department of Political Science, Philosophy, Religion & Legal Studies

- Interdisciplinary department with the majority of students interested in pursuing law school, but the department does not have a pre-law program
- Two new programs; add a pre-law concentration within existing majors
 - **BA in Philosophy and Religion – Pre Law**
 - **BA in Political Science – Pre Law**
- Adding a pre-law concentration within existing majors could help with recruitment
- Pre-law concentrations focus on courses specifically for students wanting to go to law school
- Students in either of the new programs could minor in Legal Studies, which has a broader array of options for courses
- Department will review courses in the Legal Studies minor in the future
- Both programs were approved

4. Modified Courses

Interdisciplinary Studies

- LART 604 Capstone Colloquium modification was approved
- Prerequisites modified to align with previously submitted MLA in Liberal Arts program changes

Social Work

- All course modifications were approved
 - SCWK 430 Social Work Intervention I
 - SCWK 431 Interpersonal Helping Skills in Social Work Practice
 - SCWK 432 Social Work Intervention II
 - SCWK 433 Social Work Intervention III
- Removal of S/U grade option
- Courses are required for BSW majors and students must earn a letter grade

5. New Courses

Biology

- All new courses were approved
 - BIOL 382 Data Management for Biologists
 - BIOL 383 Data Visualization for Biologists
 - BIOL 384 Data Analysis for Biologists
 - BIOL 388 Snakes and Newts: from Genes to Landscapes

English

- WRIT 551 Advanced Creative Non-Fiction Workshop was approved, pending addition of prerequisites
 - Has been offered twice as WRIT 510 Topics in Writing and Rhetoric

Political Science

- PLSC 340 African & Latin American Politics was approved
 - Combines PLSC 335 Latin American Politics and PLSC 338 African Politics into a comparative course
 - Students could not take PLSC 340 in addition to both PLSC 335 and PLSC 338
 - Course should be added as an option for the minor in African American Studies

Social Work

- SCWK 504 Grief and Loss as a Social Process was approved, pending agreement of the Department of Sociology, Criminology & Anthropology
 - Will replace SCWK 550c Grief and Loss as a Social Process, which has been taught as a special topics course
 - Course is cross listed with SOCL 304, so this course needs to be modified to add new cross-listing

6. 36 Hour Rule

- Students in a Bachelor of Arts degree program can take only 36 hours within one designator (plus an additional 6 hours toward a general education or minor course) to count toward the 120 hours to graduate.
- The Dean's Council supports the removal of the 36 hour rule, and the Curriculum Committee was asked to discuss the rule.
- The Curriculum Committee discussed the rule and does not have a recommendation; points of discussion are listed below.
 - Students in a Bachelor of Arts program are expected to earn fewer credit hours in one designator than students in a Bachelor of Science program
 - The 36 hour rule is rarely an issue now for students. There have been a few cases where it is an issue. One example is that a student who starts in SPAN 250 and earns a B in the course will get credit for SPAN 101, 102, and 201, which increases the number of hours in the SPAN designator.
 - Given that the rule is rarely an issue, it is not clear why removing the rule is necessary; it seems that giving exceptions as needed is sufficient
 - The dates of the specific cases where an exception was required is not known, so it is unclear whether students needing exceptions has become a more frequent occurrence
 - Students could take advantage of the removal of the rule and narrow their education to areas in which they are most interested

- Removal of the rule would allow for greater credit hour production in a designator
- More information about why removal of the rule would be beneficial is necessary

7. Student Petitions

- Two student petitions were approved

8. Next Meeting: February 20, 2024 at 11 am in Kinard 105

