

**Academic Affairs Committee
November 15, 2010
Meeting Notes**

Committee members in attendance:

Kathy Menzie (chair)
Mary Sheldon
Cal Melick
Dan Peterson (SAS proxy for Linda Croucher)
Paul Byrne
Nancy Tate (Ex Officio)

Guests:

Donna LaLonde, Assessment Committee
Judy Druse, Mabee Library Representative

The meeting was called to order by Kathy Menzie.

I. Mabee Library's Proposed New Courses

Judy Druse, Assistant Director, Mabee Library was present to answer questions about the proposed new courses.

The four new proposed Courses are:

IS 171 – Internet Research Strategies (*IS 170 required prerequisite*)

IS 172 – Advanced Research Strategies (*IS 171 required prerequisite*)

IS 173 – Information Literacy for Scholars (*No prerequisite*)

IS 174 – Trace Your Family History

After reviewing the course proposals, the committee discussed their concerns, which follow:

IS 173: EN 300 appears to cover very similar material as IS 173, which would create a potential course duplication. The Library would need to show how IS 173 sufficiently differs from EN to avoid duplication of the course material.

IS 174: The Committee was concerned about whether this course had a historical emphasis and whether the research tools were too uniquely specialized to be used in other courses. The Committee noted the research methods used should have utility above and beyond genealogy, and suggested adding to the description the types of skills taught/learned in the course. In addition, changing the description and course title would also to allow more flexibility in the course content.

Judy Druse commented that the School of Nursing (SON) was especially interested in this class as it pertains to medical history, which might provide an opportunity for the Library to partner with SON in developing this course.

The committee noted the emphasis on Learning Outcomes in the course descriptions may be a bit premature because the Learning Outcomes have been approved but have yet to be completely defined. In addition, the Committee suggested focusing on the rationale as to why this course would work as a correlate course for students.

Action: The motion was made to approve the four classes. After discussion, the motion was postponed until additional information was provided by the Library for the Committee to review.

II. Change in Board of Regents minimum requirements for graduation

Dr. Tate informed the Committee that the Board of Regents recently voted to decrease the minimum hours for graduation from 124 to 120. This does not impact existing programs. Dr. Tate said she proposes Washburn University adapt these changes, which would allow students to take four less elective hours, although there would not be a maximum hour requirement. Associate Degrees would be exempt.

The Committee asked what the impact would be on the current students. Dr. Tate said she would research the impact on various degrees and report back to the Committee.

III. General Education Faculty Workshops/Luncheons

The Academic Affairs Committee reviewed the responses from the faculty workshops and the next steps in the process.

- The Committee will send faculty a copy of the questions from the luncheon and encourage faculty who did not attend the workshops to respond. These responses would be collected as well.
- The Committee will also send out a summary of the responses received at the workshop. Kathy Menzie volunteered to work on this.
- The Committee thought it would be helpful to provide a summary to the faculty of the assessment explanation provided by Donna LaLonde during the workshops.
- The Committee agreed to look at additional information to be presented to help faculty better understand how to assess Learning Outcomes (as applied to the current curriculum/general education courses).

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting:

Friday, December 3rd

3:30 – 5:00 pm

Baker Room, BTAC