

Proposal to Change the Curriculum Review Process
2009-2010 Handbook

Date: ~~19 Sept 2008~~01 May 2008

The Liberal Learning Council proposes a change to the undergraduate curriculum review process.

The last date to submit courses for Area of Inquiry review is always 01 October in any given year and, to be included in the next catalog, curriculum additions and changes must be reviewed and approved before 01 March of the next year. During the 2007-2008 academic year, fourteen (14) AofI proposals were submitted by the 01 October deadline, but only one (BUSN 302) made it through the entire curriculum approval process by the 01 March 2008 deadline. That course was approved in a timely manner because it and ~~that was because it~~ was approved by the School of Business before it was placed into the entire review process. Ten of the other 13 AofI courses were approved by the Liberal Learning Council by 08 February 2008, but that did not allow enough time for additional approval by UCC, the Senate and the Provost before 01 March. Due to the revised spring academic calendar, and standard monthly meetings for academic committees the loss of one week in January meant there were few if any committee meetings in January 2008 and therefore curriculum review by committees was unlikely ~~in January~~. TABLE 1 below shows the number of steps needed for approval of all curricular changes under the current approval process. It is clear that the number of steps needed for approval of an AofI course (10 steps) is considerably more than for most ~~of the~~ other curricular changes. If~~When~~ these se steps are translated into months (10 months), ~~under the current process~~ most AofI proposals submitted by 01 October have little chance of being approved by the next year's 01 March deadline.

TABLE 1

The proposed curriculum review process preserves the integrity of the process in fewer steps (e.g., AofI new course review would have 6 steps instead of 10) and gives more of the responsibility to the Liberal Learning Council while eliminating the Faculty Senate from all but the most important curricular decisions. Including the Faculty Senate in the review process for the courses in the Liberal Learning Core is retained a hold-over from CNU's former general education curriculum review process. Now CNU has the Liberal Learning Council and the Council can take the place of the Senate in reviewing the majority of proposals for the Core and prior to the inception of the Liberal Learning Council. The Liberal Learning Council is an elected, standing committee of the University with representation from every department in both Colleges. It is the only University standing committee that has this amount of department representation, including the Faculty Senate. The members of the Council have shown they can review proposals for the Liberal Learning Core with integrity, efficiency and reliability, while ensuring a Core with courses that challenge students. If either the Curriculum Committee or the Liberal Learning Core requests the senate to review a submission, the senate will review and vote on the course.

In addition to the elimination of the Senate in some of the reviews, other changes to the process include:

- Removing the CLAS Chairs from the review process unless requested by the CLAS Chairs Curriculum Subcommittee. CLAS Chairs voted in August 2007 to retain their curricular voting privileges, and the new process would change that. (This change in the review process by the CLAS Chairs is being implemented in the 0809 academic year and is allowed by the Handbook.)
- Submitting AofI proposals to CLAS and Luter College simultaneously. Some proposals were submitted to the Colleges simultaneously this year, but that was not enough to shorten the length of time for a course in the review process.
- Removing UCC from reviewing the designation of current courses as AofI. If UCC has already approved a course, it seems reasonable that these courses should not have to go through UCC review again.
- Adding Liberal Learning Council approval to the deletion of existing courses with AofI designation. It is important for the Council to know when an AofI course is deleted from the catalog.
- The Provost indicated that he does not need to review the first year seminar proposals. He just wants a list of approved first year seminars at the end of each academic year.

Note: ~~The before~~The 01 March deadline for approved courses to be included in the catalog is very important to the timely production and printing of the catalog and should not be changed.