COUNCIL ON CURRICULAR PROGRAMS AND INSTRUCTION

Thursday, 15 September 2016

**Horrabin Hall 60 - 3:30 p.m.**

# M I N U T E S

MEMBERS PRESENT: M. Doh, J. Engel, D. Gravitt, A. Hardeman, A. Hyde (via teleconference), J. Lin, P. McGinty, K. Myers, A. Valeva, T. Walters, J. Wells (SGA)

**Ex-officio:** N. Parsons, D. Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

GUESTS: Katrina Dayner, Kyle Mayborn, Linda Prosise

1. Consideration of Minutes  
   1. 28 April 2016

**MINUTES APPROVED AS DISTRIBUTED**

1. Announcements
   1. Introduction of New Members

Introductions were made. Drs. Valeva and Lin are returning to CCPI after their leaves, and Joi Wells will be the new SGA rep. New members include Jeff Engel, Andrea Hyde, and Tracy Walters.

1. Old Business – None
2. New Business
   1. Proposal for Review of Comprehensive Majors and Definitions of Academic Terms

CCPI has been asked by the Faculty Senate to conduct a review of comprehensive majors and the existing definitions of academic terms:

**Charge:**

CCPI will conduct:

1) a review of the existing definitions of academic terms

2) an examination of the comprehensive major, to include:

* whether the understanding of a comprehensive major as a broad-based unit of instruction has changed to now prevent students from getting sufficient exposure outside their major disciplines
* a consideration of the restrictions placed upon comprehensive majors due to accreditation requirements

3) an examination of majors and minors within the same discipline

4) a review of the process by which departments are applying academic terms, such as the creation of emphases or options that later evolve into minors or majors

5) an examination into what constitutes a discipline, a program, and a core and consideration of adding these to the definitions of academic terms

6) a discussion of and examination into any relevant issues that arise from the review process

The council should invite relevant guests as needed.

**Meetings:**

Meetings will be held at the regular Council on Curricular Programs and Instruction meeting times (every other Thursday at 3:30 p.m.).

**Timeline:**

CCPI is asked to present a final report to the Faculty Senate on March 7, 2017.

**Membership:**

14--entire membership of Council on Curricular Programs and Instruction plus Provost’s office representative (Linda Prosise)

Chairperson Hardeman noted that some definitions, such as that of degrees, may be specified by the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) and not within the purview of CCPI to define. Associate Provost Parsons offered to email CCPI members the IBHE definitions of terms. She does not think there will be a lot of overlap because the IBHE leaves to the discretion of universities how to define many academic terms. She will attend an IBHE meeting tomorrow and will ask if there are any updates to their list of definitions. Chairperson Hardeman observed that CCPI’s subcommittee examining undergraduate certificates met for quite some time before finding out how IBHE had defined that term, upon which WIU changed its definition to match.

Dr. Doh asked for background on why this charge was given to CCPI. Chairperson Hardeman responded that Interim Provost Neumann at the Faculty Assembly mentioned reviewing the comprehensive major. Chairperson Hardeman said the perception is that perhaps some comprehensive majors no longer meet their original intents because they do not encompass a sufficiently broad spectrum of courses outside their disciplines so that minors are not necessary. She added that within the context of comprehensive majors it seemed appropriate to look at the other academic terms as well; the original definitions of academic terms were crafted in 2006, so it seems appropriate to reexamine them.

Dr. Gravitt remarked that the purpose of General Education is to make sure there are a minimum number of outside courses, whether the major is comprehensive or not. Associate Provost Parsons stated that a review of General Education will occur simultaneously with CCPI’s review. She observed that comprehensive majors in some cases have become a sort of turf issue; departments try to keep their students within their own areas instead of ensuring they get a broad experience across many areas. Associate Provost Parsons related there were not a lot of comprehensive majors when she was hired 29 years ago, and what comprehensive majors there were tended to be the result of accreditation requirements. She suspects student credit hour (SCH) production may be one reason that has changed. She added that at one time departments were not supposed to offer a minor to students within their own department, but that has fallen by the wayside with the rearrangement of various programs and as departments have combined. Associate Provost Parsons remarked that this is also a transfer friendly issue because it is more difficult for students to transfer into a comprehensive major. She added that students are less prepared in a broader range of areas when they obtain a minor that is completely within the major area.

Chairperson Hardeman stated that a good first step will be to determine what the comprehensive majors are on campus. Ms. Williams and Ms. Prosise volunteered to prepare a list of majors indicating which are comprehensive.

Chairperson Hardeman explained that she sees CCPI scaffolding their work on the review, with discussions of different terms throughout the year. She suggested that CCPI college representatives can talk to the departments within their colleges to see what is involved in their comprehensive majors and the reasons behind creating them. CCPI is expected to report whether the existing terms still fit or need to be revised or redefined in some way at the March 7 Faculty Senate meeting. Associate Provost Parsons added that CCPI may wish to look at sister institutions for comparison.

V. Provost’s Report

Associate Provost Parsons thinks it is good that CCPI is undertaking an in-depth look at existing curriculum and related issues. She pointed out that once course requests are approved by CCPI, the Council does not go back to see if they continue to follow their stated course objectives, for example, which is why departments are asked to submit requests for changes to courses when it is found that they have changed over time.

Associate Provost Parsons said questions have been raised about the relationship between the CCPI review and the Gen Ed review because Gen Ed affects the breadth of courses within majors. Dr. Engel remarked that part of the issue of breadth concerns General Education, but since all majors require Gen Ed there is also the issue of whether a minor needs to be required to make a major sufficiently diverse. College of Arts and Sciences Interim Associate Dean Kyle Mayborn remarked that originally all majors required a minor, but this became impossible due to the needs of accreditation; Associate Provost Parsons stated that some comprehensive majors were created for purposes of accreditation but others were created for purposes of protecting turf. Dr. Mayborn asked if the intention is to say that Gen Ed is not broad enough and minors need to be put back into majors that do not have them; Associate Provost Parsons responded that is not the intention. Chairperson Hardeman added that CCPI will be considering the group of courses beyond Gen Ed and how broad they are in comprehensive and non-comprehensive majors.

Dr. Engel remarked it would be nice to know what year each comprehensive major was created, but Ms. Williams thought this may be too difficult to determine. Associate Provost Parsons stated that it will be necessary to determine the number of hours in each major as well.

Associate Provost Parsons announced that the new Mechanical Engineering major will be considered by IBHE at its September 27 meeting. Chairperson Hardeman added that IBHE only meets four times a year now, so curriculum submitted in late spring which has to go through that body will probably not be approved by the fall semester.

The next CCPI meeting will be in Horrabin Hall 1.

**Motion:** To adjourn (Gravitt)

The Council adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Patrick McGinty, CCPI Secretary

Annette Hamm, Faculty Senate Office Manager and Recording Secretary