UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE
2015-16 Meeting #16, April 4, 2016

Present: Dan Eveleth, Janine Darragh, Joe Law, Kerri Vierling, Mark Nielsen, Todd Thorsteinson, Jeanne Stevenson, Don Crowley, Kenton Bird, Rick Stoddardt, Heather Chermak
Absent: Ankah Guria, Matthew Brehm, Tim Prather, Patricia Hart
Others present: Grace Miller, Rebecca Frost, Dwaine Hubbard, Brian Ellison, Bert Baumgaertner

Call to order: A quorum being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 3:30p.m. in the Pitman Cataldo room. The March 28th minutes were approved unanimously.

UCC-16-042 DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Dr. Bert Baumgaertner introduced the proposed course, returning to UCC for the second time. He noted to the committee that students sometimes come to the University having never taken a philosophy course. He explained that a course that addresses alcohol in a philosophical context might incline students to enroll when they otherwise would not. He also explained that the classification of lager and ale is a philosophical question; yeast exists on a continuum, which means that the difference between lagers and ales is not so obvious. Human beings classify things discretely, but Nature does not.

Mark responded that students reading the course description would likely not be aware of classification’s philosophical foundation. He asked if it were possible to rewrite the description to make it clear that Philosophy of Alcohol is first and foremost a philosophy class. Dr. Baumgaertner responded that classification is an essential part of the course because it is important that students understand how these classifications function. Dan noted that the classification questions represent specific instances of the larger philosophical questions. He also noted that a specific course description may be limiting.

Rick asked whether students could successfully complete all assignments without tasting alcohol and Dr. Baumgaertner affirmed. He clarified that no alcohol will be available in the classroom; tasting assignments happen outside of class and their only purpose is to determine whether or not taste is subjective. Dan asked whether Dr. Baumgaertner expected his students to skew younger and he responded that their age depends on why they’re taking the course.

Kerri asked whether Dr. Baumgaertner was concerned that students might use the tasting assignment to become dangerously inebriated or otherwise behave inappropriately. Mark asked whether there were a legal liability risk. Dr. Baumgaertner responded that he had yet to look into the legal implications, but he included things in the syllabus that clarify the course policy regarding alcohol: alcohol is strictly optional and only optional to students 21 and older. Dan noted that the course description says nothing about the tastings and approval at UCC would not prevent Dr. Baumgaertner from making changes to the syllabus. Dr. Baumgaertner suggested a new description for the course that pairs questions with their philosophical underpinnings. It was moved and seconded to approve the new course, as amended. The motion passed unanimously.
Kenton introduced the changes to Regulation J, which governs the general requirements for all baccalaureate degrees across the university. There are four sets of changes; the first three are internally linked to J-3 and J-3a and the fourth deals with J-3e.

First, UCGE suggested adding the University Wide Learning Outcomes, as they are not currently listed anywhere in the catalog. Second, the current language refers to a Communication category with two subcategories (Public Speaking and Written English); Kenton suggested that a more holistic approach to English education makes this division unnecessary. He noted that the change to J-3a avoids the problem of designating an oral communication course that may not have met the expectations of the faculty and Communication Studies program.

Heather noted that board policy requires six credits of written and two credits of oral communication, but neither 101 nor 102 are designated as written communication courses. Kenton responded that he assumed that the courses didn’t need to be categorized as written or oral because the purpose of the requirement is for students to develop integrative communication skills. Heather clarified that the designation is relevant to transfer students’ course articulations elsewhere.

Mark told the committee that he didn’t like the change would allow students to receive 3 credits for 101 without having actually taken the course. Heather clarified that many students already do, by testing into 102.

Joe noted that the change may increase the Engineering credit requirements if the departments have to list Engl 101 as a required course. He noted that some students will receive the credit by passing 102, but others will not, which requires that the departments at 101 to their major requirements, as per the Regulation’s requirements. Don asked Joe why he opposed listing Engineering majors at 131 credits and Joe explained that the advertising would pose a problem.

Kenton said: “Since we have already decided that these would be effective no sooner than 2017, if I could get a clear directive from UCC, that would be very helpful.” He suggested voting on the first change with regard to the Learning Outcomes. It was moved and seconded to vote on the J-3 changes. The motion passed unanimously.

Don suggested that the University specify how courses will transfer. Kenton suggested that the committee determine whether there were a way to finesse the new requirement in order to prevent it from being transcripted and, therefore, affecting credit totals.

**UCC-16-045 BOISE BIBLE COLLEGE**

It was moved and seconded to approve the student petition. The motion passed unanimously.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Kenton noted to the committee that Alton Campbell has been trying for nearly two months to find a new core science course that would appeal to non-majors. He said that Steven Cook approached him with a new course called: “From Food to Weapons: How Humans Use Insects.” Kenton told the committee that he is trying to find a way to offer it in the Fall of 2016 with a 404 prefix, but Dwaine
informed him that the relationship between the CORS science courses and the general requirements prevents it from being scheduled as CORS 404. The committee agreed to hold an email vote.

UCC will reconvene on Monday, April 18, 2016.

Grace Miller
UCC Secretary