

CHS Curriculum Committee
Annual Report
May, 2009

The purpose of the CHS Curriculum Committee is to implement policies and procedures established by the Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee (FSCC); initiate discussion on curriculum issues and programs' needs; recommend college-wide curriculum standards, policies, and procedures relative to curriculum matters; review courses, programs, and curriculum; and review and prepare catalog materials for the College. As Chair of this committee I also serve as the CHS representative to the Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee.

The members of the CHS Curriculum Committee for 2008-2009 were: Roger Smith - Chair, Christine Cook, Rick Sharp, Suzanne Hendrich, Jean Parsons, and Ellen Fairchild, with Hina Patel, Dayle Nickerson, and Corly Brooke as Ex officio members, Marne Parriott and Diana Baltimore as student members, and Tara Fisher as the recorder. I was appointed by the dean as the committee chair toward the end of September so the committee got off to a slow start this fall.

The committee held approximately ten meetings, two joint meetings with the Outcomes Assessment Committee, and three open forums. One forum was held to discuss the College Curriculum Report which was part of the catalog process, and two related to the implementation of the Core Outcomes. I also made a presentation about the Core to the Cabinet. Work was done consistently from October through May with a flurry of activity toward the end of the spring with the vote on the part of the faculty on the Core.

The accomplishments for the year included reviewing and modifying the college section of the catalog and completing all revisions to the entire catalog and preparing it for publication, which was done. As part of that process we reviewed all courses that had not been taught during the past two years. A College Curriculum Report was also prepared and approved by the faculty and was accepted by the FSCC. The second major accomplishment for the year was to gain a narrow approval of the Core Learning Outcomes for undergraduate students in CHS, which had been worked on for over two years. We also reviewed and approved approximately 12 experimental courses and a certificate program in social justice submitted by ELPS. Additionally, discussions about college-wide research methods courses and the entrepreneurship minor were held.

The major issues this year were the catalog and the implementation of the Core. The major challenge for this committee next year will be to work with other groups to develop a plan to implement the Core. I would recommend that an ad hoc committee be formed for this task with some representation from the Curriculum Committee and the Outcomes Assessment Committee along with representation from each department. Kevin Saunders, university-wide assessment coordinator has already expressed interest in assisting as well. With less than half the faculty participating in the vote on the Core and only 53% of those who voted voting in favor, a lot of work will have to be done to get departments to move forward with the implementation of this proposal. In my view, the

College will need to move actively with determination on this issue or it will fail. This requires a different model than the voluntary implementation of outcomes for the university as a whole, which was not mandated and has been a very slow process.

I do not have any recommendations for improving the processes used in this committee. It seems like they are working fine, even in light of a tremendous work load. Over the years it has occasionally been suggested that there be a second committee formed to deal solely with the catalog but I feel we are getting both curriculum review and catalog done by this one committee.

The committee will continue to do its work and encourage departments to review and improve their curriculum as they deem appropriate for the best education of our students.

Report submitted by:
Roger Smith, Chair
May 5, 2009