

Annual Report of the Senate Curriculum Committee
Submitted to the Office of the Corporate Secretary and General Counsel
University of Winnipeg, May 1, 2013

As Co-Chairs of the Senate Curriculum Committee, we are pleased to present our Annual Report to Senate for 2012-13.

The Senate Curriculum Committee (SCC) reviews proposed changes to the university curriculum and reviews and amends procedures or curricular changes for Senate approval.

This year has been and continues to be extraordinarily busy for the committee. Between May of 2012 and April of 2013, we have reviewed 665 credit-hours worth of curricular material. Of this material, 195 credit hours have been new courses. New courses are among the most time-consuming types of curricular material that we consider, in large part because we must ensure that relevant departments, faculties, and programs have been properly consulted. Consultation takes time and effort, not just for members of the committee but also for faculty members responsible for submitting course forms to us.

Another 270 credit-hours worth of curricular material we have reviewed this year has been in the form of experimental courses that are not approved by Senate and, therefore, require careful consideration. We look at all the materials that are submitted with experimental course forms (e.g. course outlines) to assess, first, how they fit into the curriculum within a particular department, faculty, or program, and, second, how they fit into the larger university curriculum.

Less time-consuming but no less significant in terms of the shaping of curriculum at both micro and macro levels are course revisions and course deletions. We considered 270 credit-hours worth of revisions this year and, attesting to the efforts of faculty across the university to maintain a viable and stream-lined curriculum, we have reviewed and recommended for approval 101 credit-hours worth of course deletions.

Some of the most interesting work we did this year, however, was related to the new Minor Area Proposal. Departments, faculties, and programs had varying approaches to this proposal: some of them left considerable space for students to decide how they wanted to obtain 18 credit-hours worth of courses in a minor area, and others placed considerable restrictions on students in an effort to ensure that they gain adequate knowledge of fields concerned. Ultimately, we felt that each minor area proposal made sense given the peculiar character of the curricula into which they had to fit. In total, 19 departments, faculties, and programs proposed minor areas this year.

We would be amiss if we did mention the Human Rights curriculum package, which was submitted to us in 2012 and which is still under review. Our realization that we would need more time to review this package and work with the Human Rights Curriculum Committee led us to request an extension for the Human Rights and Global Studies program at a meeting of the Academic Planning Committee in March of this year. The extension was granted. The SCC will now take the time that it needs to prepare the package for Senate approval over the next few months or so.

The extraordinary wealth of curricular material submitted to us this year, in combination with the extraordinary character of some of this material (e.g. New Minor Area proposals), has, perhaps, made us

more self-reflexive than usual. We have had several discussions about the SCC's mandate and terms of reference since last spring, the result of which has been a commitment on our part to produce a formal document that lists them all clearly. We feel that this document will serve not only future SCCs but also the university at large; indeed, we field enough questions about our mandate and terms of reference to warrant the creation of a formal document. As with the course proposals that we perceive as being so vital to maintaining an exciting and dynamic curriculum at our university, we are taking our time with this document and will present it to Senate when it is complete.

We would like to conclude by thanking faculty members, curriculum committees, and departments, faculties, and programs for taking the time to propose new courses, course revisions, and course deletions, as well as changes to degree requirements.

We would also like to thank the members of our committee, who spend countless hours going over every single course proposal. They do so, moreover, without complaint.

We are also grateful for the amazing and wonderful Jackie Benson, our administrative assistant, for her incredible efficiency, collegiality, and outstanding organizational skills. Only Jackie could keep track of 665 credit hours-worth of curricular forms and still be able to remember details pertaining to individual courses! She is truly invaluable to the committee.

Last but not least, we thank former Chairs and co-Chairs of the committee, whose own painstaking work has made ours much easier.

Respectfully,



Judith Harris and Heather Snell, co-Chairs, SCC

on Behalf of Members of Senate Curriculum Committee

Matthew Gibbs
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