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### Undergraduate Curriculum and Academic Policy Committee Minutes, April 27, 1998

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# Undergraduate Curriculum and Academic Policy Committee

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## Minutes of April 27, 1998 Meeting

**Present:** Beth Basista, Jeanne Fraker, Myrna Gifford, Joe Law, Tom Sav, Joe Slater, Donald Swanson, Jeff Wehmeyer (for Jan Maxwell)

**Approved Minutes** of April 7, 1998 UCAPC meeting.

### **General Education Program Revision**

At the invitation of the committee, Donna Schlagheck, Co-Chair of the GE Task Force, presented an overview of the recommendations regarding the proposed revisions to the General Education Program. Although the members had previously discussed the recommendations in committee and in their individual colleges and university forums, several questions arose and were fielded by Donna Schlagheck. Following discussion, the committee felt that, among other things, the recommendations: (1) produce a more balanced program, (2) create more flexibility and better position the GE curriculum for the future (3) focus more on student competencies than on course content, (4) provide a mechanism for including diversity in the curriculum, and (5) maintain, if not enhance, Writing Across the Curriculum Program opportunities. The committee noted the absence of a specific assessment plan and recommended the development of such a plan with milestones and time lines for ongoing assessment. Overall, the committee supported the recommended revisions.

### **Report of the Writing Across the Curriculum Committee**

Joe Law, WAC Committee Chair and Director of the WAC Program reporting.

The WAC Committee meeting of February 27, 1998, dealt with a policy question: Is a student who changes majors and already has a writing intensive (WI) course in the old major required to take two WI courses in the new major? The committee members involved in drawing up the original WAC document pointed out that one of the chief purposes of WI courses in the major is introducing students to the discourse conventions of that major; in addition, the WAC document specifies two WI courses in the major (i.e., courses designated by the department). Thus it seems clear that the student who changes majors should have two WI courses in the new major. The requirement should cause few difficulties for students because courses designated as WI by any department probably will be courses central to that major; thus, any student changing majors is likely to be required to take those courses to complete his or her degree plan. Furthermore, the WAC document provides the "independent writing project" option for the WI requirement in the major "under extraordinary circumstances."

At its April 24, 1998, meeting, the Committee discussed the two portfolios it has received for WI credit in GE

(one has been approved, the other is still being evaluated); it also looked at three proposals for independent writing projects for WI credit in the major (two were approved, one returned for clarification). The Committee will develop guidelines for these projects and distribute them to department chairs. Work continues on developing a means of assessing the WAC program; the WAC Coordinator has been gathering information on assessment activities already in place, and the Committee worked on the draft of a questionnaire to be distributed this spring to all faculty teaching WI courses. Finally, the Committee discussed the proposed GE reform; the consensus was that the goals of WAC and the proposed program remain consistent and that implementation of WAC in the new structure does not appear problematic.

### **Course Modification (M) and Inventory (I) Requests**

COSM: Approved EH 492 (M).

Returned EH 467(M) - the committee requests clarification regarding the relationship between the modified EH 467 and the existing EH 468 as well as a rationale for not deleting EH 468 from inventory.

SOM: Returned Pharmacology 495 (I) & Pharmacology 499 (I).

Catalog descriptions are required for both inventory requests.

### **Program Changes**

CECS: EE Program change proposal to delete CHM 122 and reduce the required graduation credit hours. It was reported that the appropriate reviews have been conducted and the changes were approved.

### **New Program Proposals**

Certificate in Women's Studies. The committee received revisions to the previous proposal. As requested the revision incorporates a comprehensive evaluation component as required by the Guidelines for Preparing Undergraduate Programs: Undergraduate Certificate Programs.

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## **UNDERGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN WOMEN'S STUDIES**

### **OBJECTIVE**

The Certificate in Women's Studies provides an undergraduate credential in Women's Studies to non-degree students who hold an associate degree or bachelor's degree with a 2.0 or higher grade point average. It will enable WSU and Women's Studies to reach out to a broader array of potential students, enabling them to gain a background and credential in Women's Studies as a prelude to further undergraduate degree work or as an addition to an undergraduate degree already completed.

### **CREDIT HOURS**

A 20 credit hour total includes a 4 hour core class (WMS 200/PLS 225-- Approaches to Women's Studies) and 16 hours of electives from at least two departments chosen from the list of undergraduate courses approved for Women's Studies.

### **STUDENT PERFORMANCE**

To be admitted to the Certificate Program, students must be non-degree students who hold either an undergraduate degree at the bachelor's or associate level in any area with a gpa of 2.0 or higher.

A minimum grade of "C" is required for each course counted toward the certificate.

### **PREREQUISITES**

The required core course (WMS 200) and a wide array of approved Women's Studies elective courses can be taken without prerequisites by students eligible for admission to the Certificate Program.

### **RESOURCES**

There is no additional cost, since there are already sufficient courses for this and the other Women's Studies programs.

### **ADMINISTRATION**

The program will be administered by the Director of the Women's Studies Program housed in the College of Liberal Arts.

### **IMPLEMENTATION**

Fall 1998.

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Due to scheduling conflicts the committee decided to adjourn and at its next meeting give final consideration to the following:

B.A. in English - concentration in English with an emphasis in Language Arts Education.

B.A. in Social Science Education.

Proposal for a new General Education Committee.

Committee on Diversity in the Curriculum: April 1998 Recommendations.

The committee scheduled its next meeting for Monday, May 18, 1998, 12:00 Noon in 032 Rike Hall.

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