MINUTES OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCES CURRICULUM COMMITTEE held on Thursday, April 5, 2018 at 3:30 pm in the Dean's Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Sidney Smith Hall

Present

Mary Pugh (Acting Vice-Dean)  David Goldreich  Lesley Mak
Martha Harris  Joshua Grondin  Elizabeth Page-Gould
Kevin Mak  Gillian Hamilton  Michael Ratcliffe
Christine Babikian  Tamara Jones  Rachel Silvey
Christian Caron  Terry Lago  Ryan Woolfrey
Dickson Eyoh  June Larkin

Call to Order and Acting Vice-Dean’s Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 3:38 pm by the Acting Vice-Dean, Undergraduate & International, Professor Mary Pugh, who welcomed everyone.

1. Report from the Acting Vice-Dean, Undergraduate & International

Vice-Dean Pugh addressed the committee on two items.

Credit/No Credit (CR/NCR):

Vice-Dean Pugh asked for the committee’s thoughts on the current CR/NCR policy and its impact on the classroom experience in order to gauge the level of interest in extending the CR/NCR declaration deadline to the last day of classes. The CR/NCR option was first introduced in 2008 to encourage students to explore elective courses that they would not normally take for fear of poor performance.

A student committee member felt that extending the declaration deadline might encourage students to stay engaged longer in a course as they would have a better understanding of their abilities and content knowledge. A member added that currently, there is a tendency for students who have selected the CR/NCR arrangement to withdraw from course activities once they have accumulated enough points to attain a final grade of 50%.

The committee raised several questions regarding the CR/NCR option. They were interested to know:

- if the Dean’s Office has any data on the number of CR/NCR requests acted upon by students leading up to the drop deadline;
- if and how students were being communicated about the perception of CR/NCR notations by grad schools; and
- how recently was the CR/NCR policy changed at the two suburban U of T campuses

Vice-Dean Pugh and Dr. Tamara Jones, Associate Director, Enrolment Services & Records from the Faculty of Arts & Science offered responses to these questions. For a 100-level language course, there might be up to 40% of the students completing it on the CR/NCR basis. For the course averages that appear on a student’s transcript, the averages are calculated based on the performance of students who have not opted for CR/NCR. Graduate and
professional programs may view a CR or NCR notation differently when they receive transcripts. For instance, in the worst case scenario, an NCR might be treated as a grade of zero by some institutions. These are unexpected consequences that may lead to student complaints. A note has been added recently to the Calendar to alert students that the Faculty does not have purview over how other institutions would interpret the CR/NCR notations. The University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC) had revised its CR/NCR policy several weeks ago, and the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM) had revised its policy this past year.

There was no strong consensus from the committee on the idea to extend the CR/NCR declaration deadline to the last day of classes. The committee offered suggestions such as allowing students to opt for CR/NCR after they have seen their final grades, or allowing students one reversal during their academic career of a course previously assessed on the CR/NCR basis, or having a warning prompt added prior to students confirming their CR/NCR selection decisions. However, factors such as resource limitations for departments, fluidity of program enrolment, academic standing assessment, and inequity due to differences in course assessment methods were also identified as worthy of consideration.

*Arts & Science Self-Study: Commencement Data:*

Vice-Dean Pugh briefly highlighted commencement data to be incorporated in the self-study being prepared by the Dean’s Office. Of note was the significant number of graduating students - of about 30% - who had completed double Majors from multiple sectors. She mentioned that the Dean’s Office would be able to provide departments with information on popular program combinations.

2. **Presentation and Discussion: “When does the academic year start – May or September?”**

Mr. Ryan Woofrey, Associate Faculty Registrar and Director of Enrolment, Scheduling, & Systems, and Dr. Tamara Jones, Associate Director of Enrolment Services & Records at the Faculty of Arts & Science presented the proposal to establish a formal effective date for, as well as the fall implementation of the Arts & Science Calendar.

Academic changes can impact students significantly, yet the current Arts & Science Calendar does not explicitly state the time period for which it is in effect. The current situation is such that the Calendar is primed for a mid-March publication and is implemented in systems as being in effect from May to the following April. In theory, this means that all changes to course prerequisites and program requirements, albeit last minute on occasion, can be in effect as of the summer following the publication of the Calendar. This would therefore come as a shock to students who have been using the previous year’s Calendar to map out their academic plans.

By implementing the Calendar with course and program changes effective in the fall, students would have more time to absorb the new information and requirements. It would also allow the Enrolment and Records unit at the Office of the Faculty Registrar to implement the necessary changes across various student information systems, most notably ROSI and Degree Explorer.

A member raised a question to seek clarification on the program enrolment periods. Dr. Jones replied that students can enrol in type 1 programs in as early as March. There’s also a second enrolment period in July for type 2 and type 3 programs.

Vice-Dean Pugh encouraged the committee to think through the proposal and reach out with questions or concerns.

3. **Approval of Minutes of the February 1, 2018 Meeting of Social Sciences Curriculum Committee**

The meeting minutes were approved.
4. Course and Program Modifications for Abbreviated/Expedited Review

No issues were raised.

5. Course and Program Proposals for Full Review

Sociology, Department of:

Professor Christian Caron, Associate Chair of Undergraduate Studies from the Department of Sociology presented proposals to create three new courses and retire one existing course. With respect to the new SOC319H1 and SOC370H1 proposals having the same course title (i.e. Immigration and Employment), he explained that the former would be a course restricted to students enrolled in its programs of study while the latter would operate as a service course. He noted that all of the department’s third-year courses have two course codes. This concept was agreed upon after discussions had taken place as part of last year’s major program modifications. All of the course proposals were approved.

Political Science, Department of:

Professor Dickson Eyoh, Associate Chair and Undergraduate Director (St. George) from the Department of Political Science presented proposals to modify one of its existing courses as well as retire one other. Both course proposals were approved.

Asian Institute:

Professor Rachel Silvey, Richard Charles Lee Director of the Asian Institute presented proposals to create one new course, as well as modify one of its programs and two existing courses. Based on the feedback received from the January/February 2018 round of curriculum committee meetings, the institute decided to propose a new 200-level course aimed to further expose students to the fundamentals of contemporary Asian studies.

A question was raised to seek clarification on the preferred sequence of three 200-level courses to be taken by students. Professor Silvey replied that there would be no crucial order as these courses would emphasize different aspects and regions of Asia. Vice-Dean Pugh also made mention of a suggestion made by a student member at the Humanities Curriculum Committee meeting to consider changing the course title for CAS201H1. No action was carried out based on that suggestion. All of the course and program proposals were approved.

New College:

Professor June Larkin, Vice-Principal of New College presented proposals to create two new Interdisciplinary Special Topics courses. Since topics would vary from year to year for these two courses, she indicated that further references would be added to the descriptions of these two new courses to ensure students would know where to go to obtain specific information about the course topics.

A member commented on the lack of breadth category assigned to these two courses. Professor Larkin responded that this would depend on the topics being offered. Both course proposals were approved.
Trinity College:

Professor Michael Ratcliffe, Dean of Arts of Trinity College presented the proposal to further modify the Ethics, Society, and Law Major. Changes to the enrolment requirements of the Major were proposed and approved at the last set of curriculum committee meetings in January/February 2018. This round of modifications included the addition of sociology courses deemed relevant for program students. A commitment was made by the Department of Sociology to keep Trinity College informed of new courses that might be suitable for students enrolled in the Major. The program modification proposal was approved.

Management, Joseph L. Rotman School of:

Professor David Goldreich, Director of Rotman Commerce presented proposals to create three new Focuses, four new courses, as well as modify one of its existing programs. Four new Independent Study courses were proposed in response to faculty members expressing interest in supervising projects at the 300-level. Professor Goldreich confirmed that these courses would be experiential in nature.

The proposed modification to the Accounting Specialist: Public Accounting is meant to allow program students the opportunity to take breadth courses in other business disciplines, in addition to fulfilling their academic requirements for the Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA) designation.

A student member asked if there was any consultation with student organizations to confirm this is what students wanted. Professor Goldreich replied that there was extensive consultation, including discussions within the Undergraduate Programs Committee, which has student representation.

In response to the three new Focuses – Finance, Leadership in Organizations, and Strategy and Innovation – being proposed, it was confirmed that amendments would need to be made to the previously approved Marketing Focus to allow second-year RSM Special Topics courses as well as RSM Summer Abroad courses (at the discretion of the academic unit) to count towards its completion requirements. The amendments were aimed to ensure consistent messaging across all four Focuses.

A member asked about the 300+ series economics requirement for the Public Accounting stream of the Accounting Specialist. Professor Goldreich responded that the requirement has been in place for a number of years. He also added that the Management Specialist contains a fluid international requirement that could be fulfilled using a subset of economics courses. All of the course and program proposals were approved.

Psychology, Department of:

Professor Elizabeth Page-Gould, Acting Associate Chair of Undergraduate Studies from the Department of Psychology presented the proposal to create a new Category 2 Certificate in Psychology of Economics and Management. This limited enrolment Certificate program would set a clearer path for commerce and economics students wanting to develop knowledge in psychology as they would take courses in social psychology and organizational behaviour in upper years. This program proposal was approved.

Vice-Dean Pugh acknowledged that this would be the first Certificate offered in conjunction with an undergraduate degree program as depicted in the University’s Policy on Certificates (For Credit and Not-for-Credit). She also stated that students could start requesting enrolment in this Certificate program as of July 3, 2018.

Professor Goldreich expressed his appreciation for the efforts made by the Department of Psychology to bring this Certificate program to fruition and for providing Rotman Commerce students with pathways and depths toward their studies.
6. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 5:04 pm.

Minutes prepared by Kevin Mak, Curriculum and Governance Assistant, Faculty of Arts & Science