

Social Science Division
College of Letters and Science
Minutes of Meeting on March 6, 2008
N/E 107 at 1:30

Present: Franca Baricelli, Pete Brown, Liz Cannon, James Koch, Gerard Gryzb, Susan Reed, Kimberly Rivers, James Simmons, Darel Tackett, Amy Williams (for Quintin Sullivan), Kazimierz Zaniewski

Guest: Michael Beeth

1. Minutes 1/14:

Moved: Jim Koch

Seconded: Susan Reed

Discussion: change date to February 14.

Unanimously approved.

2. Review of Social Science Content Standards Alignments with COLS courses.

(Michael Beeth)

Purpose of document is to see which COLS courses teach the academic standards required for social science education students to pass the standardized test for licensing. The last review was done in 2002. This review is simply looking for verification. Chairs were asked to verify the information given for their department.

Discussion: Question of the document being fundamentally flawed because Anthropology was not included. Recent laws have been passed to accommodate what is being taught at every school involved in Wisconsin so the bar is low. It was suggested that Women's Studies has also been crossed off the list of accepted departments.

Action: send Franca hard copy of form with changes marked by 4:30pm on Friday, March 7.

3. New course proposal for Social work and revision of Master of Social Work:

Social Work 734: Field Research Consultation proposed as new course to be included as a requirement for the Master of Social Work.

Moved: Kim Rivers

Seconded: Jim Koch

Discussion: clarification of topic of course.

Unanimously approved.

4. Tenure/Renewal Guidelines: brought at request of division for discussion.

Departments revising their guidelines looking for in-put.

Many commonalities in guidelines: two differences: 1) the weight placed on the three required components of teaching, scholarship, and service 2) the precision of the methods of measurements used.

Sociology: considering forming a committee of their three new faculty members to revise their guidelines. They retain the option of using the guidelines under which they were hired.

Psychology: percentages and precision purposefully vague because of the different types of research done in their department and the different lengths of time required to complete a project. Only problem with these guidelines is that tenure meetings can be tricky: allows for subjectivity in determining eligibility of faculty member being reviewed.

Political Science: very precise in percentages and methods of measurement. Last revision process was complicated because negotiating teaching load requirements. Purposefully puts less emphasis on service for tenure track faculty. Also uses point system, required 3 referred articles or 1 book as a minimum for research. Proposed using published ranking scale for journals in Political Science, faculty rejected.

Religious Studies/Anthropology: wants a quantitative component to make it clear to junior faculty what will be required of them. Given variations in types of research in anthro and religious studies, can't specify specific journals for publication. What is important is that quality scholarship is being done and that the scholarship remains active.

Criminal Justice: aim for balance in teaching and research requirements but emphasizes that teaching is most important. Tried to make requirements as clear as possible to protect tenure track faculty. Has a point system based on type of journal published in, how much preparation time is needed for research project, etc.

5. Distribution Grade Reports:

Fall 2007 Distribution Grade Reports for departments were handed out to each chair. Might be useful to look at grades given by academic staff vs. faculty; tenure-track faculty vs. tenured faculty. Suggested that grades in High School AP classes and Wind River classes were substantially higher than UWO grades in similar classes. Concern about success of minority students raised; Equity Score Card results show there is a definitely problem here. Discussion of our 5 pt. grading scale vs. the use of pluses and minuses raised: only 30% of schools in Wisconsin use 5pt.

6. Permanent Property Requests:

Due March 6. Social Science Division will rank at 1:30 on March 13 in N/E 123.

7. Travel Regulations:

John Cross confirmed with Tom Sonnleitner that changes in regulations affect large groups traveling to the same conference rather than faculty/academic staff attending conferences to present papers or recruit for faculty positions. The hope is that there will also still be money for student presenters.

8. Announcements:

- a. Social Science Division will meet at 1:30 on March 13 in N/E 123
- b. Changes in Social Science Content Standards Alignments due Friday, March 7 at 4:30pm

9. Meeting adjourned at 2:57 pm

Recorder: Liz Cannon