

**COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES AND ADVISING**  
Minutes of the Meeting for January 22, 2008

The committee met on Tuesday, January 22, 2008, at 11:00 a.m. in Room 210 Strong Hall. The following were present: Blackmore, Bradley, Burright, Carlson, Childs, Coon, Crosby, D'Anieri, Dickey, Kuczera, Ledom, Madden, Manning, McNeley, Roberts, Rudolph, Schumaker, Shaw

**MINUTES** The minutes for December 11, 2007, were approved.

**CHAIR'S REPORT** Professor Carlson welcomed Professor Schumaker and distributed a list of items for Spring 2008 (attached) that CUSA would be reviewing.

**DEAN'S REPORT** Professor D'Anieri reported that Dean Steinmetz had requested that selective admissions for departments and programs, a corresponding plan for students who might not meet selective admission requirements, and a review of the use of GPA requirements as course prerequisites be added to CUSA's Spring 2008 agenda list.

**CLA&S STUDENT ACADEMIC SERVICES REPORT** No Report.

**SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS**

A. ADVISING & AWARDS—No report.

B. CURRICULAR CHANGES/DEGREE REQUIREMENTS—No report.

C. ACADEMIC STANDARDS—Professor Carlson reported that during the break between Fall 2007 and Spring 2008 three meetings had been held to process student petitions. Academic Advisor Bridget Bradley presented a handout of data on Academic Standing Evaluations for Fall 2007 with comparative data for previous terms.

**OLD BUSINESS**

No Report.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Professor Carlson opened discussion with the Spring 2008 agenda list (attached). Following discussion of items A and D on Principal Courses, it was proposed that the three College division category requirements of humanities, natural sciences/math and social sciences be retained for educational breadth, but that the process of course selection to fulfill the requirements be amended. It was proposed that selection from a CUSA-approved list of designated Principal courses be replaced by selection from departments' course offerings, with one of a department's courses fulfilling one of the requirements. This proposal would be presented at the next Chairs' Brownbag meeting and Professor D'Anieri encouraged CUSA members to share the proposal with other College faculty, staff and students and to bring feedback to the next meeting. If agreed, the proposal would be assigned to the Curricular Changes/Degree Requirements Subcommittee for development into a recommendation for CUSA review.

**The meeting was adjourned at 12:00P.M.**

## **Items for Spring, 2008**

### **Dean's Task Force Items to be completed.**

- A. Dean's Task Force recommendations on the makeup of Principal Courses, their content, how many a Department can have, whether they meet criteria, etc.
- B. Make departments more aware that any department can develop a second-level math course (one that requires college algebra as a prerequisite) that integrates mathematics with methods and material particular to the department.
- C. Allow literature departments other than the English Department to offer writing-intensive literature courses to satisfy the third level literature/writing requirement. CUSA should develop standards and a review process to ensure that course quality and training of instructors in the teaching of writing remain at or above current levels.
- D. In order to ensure that principal courses meet their purpose, the syllabi of principal courses should state clearly how the course addresses at least two of the core skills and how the skills will be practiced in assigned work. CUSA should develop a mechanism (either within CUSA or by a group designated by CUSA) to review principal courses every 3-4 years to ensure that they continue to serve their original purpose, A majority of members also supported returning to the limit of four principal courses per department, with these to be divided as the department wishes between levels.

### **Other Items**

1. Review selective admissions in departments and programs with a corresponding plan for students who would not meet the selected admission requirements.
2. Review the use of GPA requirements as prerequisites for courses.