

Core Curriculum Council

24 September 2008 Approved Courses

Discussion:

Parliamentarian Stadelmann advised the Speaker that the language in the report needs to be modified and should that modification be inserted. The courses labeled "rejected" are an informational item only and

"The motion in the report of the Core Curriculum Council to approve ANTH 439 and WMST 439 as a Behavioral Sciences requirement passed."

The Speaker agreed that the report should be revised. The rejected courses were removed from the report following course was approved for inclusion in the Texas A&M University Core Curriculum" was characterized as recommended for approval".

Discussion regarding the rejected courses under Culture and Diversity:

Senator Stabile asked why so many courses in HIST were rejected as not being "contemporary enough"

Senator Slack, Chair of the CCC, said that the CCC uses "contemporary" as a criterion for acceptance of

Senator Daugherty noted that the catalog requires "contemporary" as a criterion.

Senator Griffin argued that history is a way of understanding the present and that courses need a historical

Senator Smith noted that the CCC's job is "basically impossible" because of restrictive requirements. She defined a "workable definition" of relevance for the Culture and Diversity.

Senator Stabile introduced Assoc. Dean Matthews (College of Liberal Arts), who urged acceptance of the

No action taken as this part is only an informational item that does not require a vote.

Academic Affairs Committee

Textbook Cost Resolution

Discussion:

Senator Turocy proposed two amendments (seconded) that would clarify the resolutions intent and reword the first line [of the resolution; not the preface that accompanies the resolution] replace "the Faculty" with "the Faculty Senate" and the second line replace "the Faculty will when possible" with "the Faculty Senate encourages all faculty to".

The amendments passed.

Senator McGeachin reminded senators of services provided by the libraries that allow faculty to place books on electronic reserve; staff are available to help faculty place books on electronic reserve.

Senator Smith questioned the meaning of "in public domain" in the final sentence of resolution. Senator Price questioned the meaning of "public domain" as libraries use the terms.

The amended motion passed. The amended resolution is as follows:

Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate of Texas A&M University understands and is sensitive to the rising cost of higher education and the impact that textbook costs have on the cost of attending college. In response to this concern, the Faculty Senate encourages all faculty to make a good faith effort to practice methods of limiting textbook costs to students. Such practices may include, but are not limited to:

- * Consideration of the cost of the book when making a textbook selection and consideration of the total cost of books required for a course
- * Use of the same textbook and edition for the same course for two years
- * Make early textbook selections (within the timeline presented by the MSC Bookstore) so that students can sell back books that will be used again and the Bookstore can purchase appropriate quantities of used books.
- * Review Evans Library holdings for the availability of electronic books when making selections
- * Post self-published textbooks and resource packets in public domain (Evans Library staff can assist with this)

Personnel and Welfare Committee

Report on Lab Safety

Senator Paetzold (Co-Chair of P&W) reported that P&W was charged with discussing the lab safety issue and performance evaluation. P&W recommends that individual departments devise their particular criteria for the degree to which it is implemented into one's annual review. Academic Affairs will address its charge and may issue a joint resolution as warranted.

Old Business

New Business

Student Representatives Mark Womack and Kolin Loveless reported on the Student Body plan to create an initiative to reward faculty for teaching excellence as they were directed by President Murano and Charlene Price.

Discussion:

Senator Price: Will new surveys be developed or will the current survey be retained?

Response: Students will use the Chancellor's survey, supplemented with other material developed by students.

Senator Price: Have students looked at Association of Former Student guidelines for evaluation teaching excellence for former students.