

RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY
ACADEMIC REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARC)

Meeting #51 Minutes of
Wednesday, March 31, 2004
10:30 A.M. to 12:45 P.M.
Library Conference Room (L-320)

All members present: S. Klein (SAB), Chair; S Gorewitz (CA); R. Mentore (TAS); E. Risch (LIB); F. Shapiro-Skrobe (SSHS); I. Spar (AIS); M. Ecker (Office of the Provost, ex-officio member).

The meeting was convened at 10:33 a.m. and the minutes of the March 24th meeting were approved as presented.

I. ARC Discussion Items

School Input Regarding Senior Seminars

S.Klein began by noting that the AIS Unit Council has proposed the elimination of the Interdisciplinary Senior Seminars. TAS, at its retreat, recommended that senior seminars be dropped from the General Education program. This will be brought to the TAS Unit Council for a vote. The Library voted to eliminate Senior Seminars in lieu of a capstone course, possibly interdisciplinary, and bring the First Year Seminar into the Schools. The remaining schools – SAB, CA, and SSHS – have discussed the issue but as yet have not made a recommendation regarding the status of the Senior Seminar.

Proposed Courseload Adjustment (CLA) General Education Model

The ARC discussed the proposed possible CLA General Education model that was included in the Provost's email of March 15th. This was in preparation for the scheduled joint meeting with CLA Committee at 11:15 a.m. S. Klein created a grid of the proposal for use in the discussion.

The ARC discussed CLA's proposed elimination of the 100 level math requirement.

The ARC favored the terminology "Studies in" for the CLA's recommended "Readings in" categories of courses.

Deans Proposal

The ARC also discussed what we knew of the Deans' General Education proposal, which had not been widely distributed, and which came to us through our AIS representative. We agreed with the idea of an upper level writing course for the major (as a follow-up to College English)

We discussed the Deans' other suggestions to:

- highlight the interdisciplinary/intercultural elements of the major
- add an ethics component to the major
- include an experiential learning component in the major

- make the capstone experience in each major interdisciplinary and writing intensive

Joint Meeting with CLA representatives (E. Saiff, Chair, H. Frundt, I. Kuchta, and E. Shannon)

When the CLA group joined us, a lively discourse ensued. E. Saiff reviewed the original CLA proposal of three units and one flex unit in each term. He explained that for General Education, the rationale for reducing the number of courses was to keep the adjunct rate from rising. He said the CLA proposal attempts to provide a balance among the General Education program, the majors and the school cores, while still leaving leave enough room for electives.

According to E. Saiff, the current proposal includes 6,000 minutes of instruction over the four years, but is still short of 60 minutes. The ARC raised the question of how one and two credit courses would be handled under the unit system. E. Saiff stated that the unit plan would be easier to manage without such courses, but suggested that students might “purchase” a unit at the start of their schooling and take partial credits over time to complete it. The requirements of the new Banner software will play a role in the final outcome.

F. Shapiro-Skrobe raised the question about the science and mathematics category requirements and a discussion followed. Another ARC question was the transferability of credits/units. E. Saiff stated that for acceptance at Ramapo, we would apply equivalencies. For Ramapo students transferring to other colleges, the receiving institution would need to make that decision.

ARC members asked about the U.S. Cultures category and whether it could be merged with the World Civilization category of courses. I. Kuchta clarified the difference between the two categories (i.e., multicultural society v.s. multicultural world).

One issue of concern was the Deans’ separate General Education proposal and its timing. It was agreed that S.Klein would email the Provost to request a joint meeting with representatives from ARC, ASEC, CLA, and Deans, along with the Faculty Assembly President. We thought it important that the various groups be “on the same page,” to ensure success of the new model.

S. Klein thanked the members of CLA for their time and for sharing with us useful information.

II. ARC Decision Items

Course Requests

1. ARC Request # 138 (F. Shapiro-Skrobe, SSHS) **XESL 1XX Reading in American Language and Culture (3 credits)**. The course was processed for First-Time Status.
2. ARC Request # 139 (A. Forest, Center for Academic Success) **XESL 1XX Writing in American Language and Culture (3 credits)**. The course was processed for First-Time Status.
3. ARC Request # 134 (S. Mustafa, AIS), **AHST 2XX The First World War (3 credits)**. This course was processed for First-Time Status.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine Risch