

## **Report of the Weinberg Curricular Policies Committee for 2011-2012**

**June 7, 2012**

The Weinberg College Curricular Policies Committee studies and makes recommendations to the faculty about policy matters above the level of individual courses. These include degree requirements, systems of course credit and grading, the creation of department and program majors and minors, and rules and regulations affecting the College's academic programs.

The committee met six times in the academic year. This is a report on committee activities for the year.

The Committee convened the three faculty members who piloted hybrid-online courses in summer 2011 in collaboration with the School of Continuing Studies. Those professors—Sandy Goldberg (Introduction to Philosophy), Sara Broaders (Developmental Psychology), and Andy Rivers (Highlights of Astronomy)—reported on their experiences developing and then teaching hybrid courses.

Two curricular proposals came before the committee. First, the Gender Studies Program submitted a proposal comprising three parts: changing the name of the program to the Gender and Sexuality Studies Program; creating a new free-standing major in Gender and Sexuality Studies to replace the existing adjunct major in Gender Studies; creating a new minor in Gender and Sexuality Studies to replace the minor in Gender Studies. The committee voted unanimously in favor of the proposal in all of its parts. The proposal was approved at a Weinberg faculty meeting on May 22, 2012.

Second, ISEN (the Initiative for Sustainability and Energy at Northwestern) submitted a proposal for a Certificate in Sustainability and Energy. The committee voted unanimously in favor of the proposal. The proposal was approved at a Weinberg faculty meeting on May 22, 2012. (It had previously been approved by the McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science.)

The committee members voted unanimously to approve a change in the way that courses in the School of Continuing Studies can count toward a Weinberg degree. The change is this: Courses in SCS departments that do not have counterparts in any of the other undergraduate schools can now be among the 11 non-Weinberg courses allowed to count toward the 45 units of credit needed to graduate. Prior to this change, SCS courses in some areas could not be counted toward a Weinberg degree.

After a number of discussions, both in person and on-line, the CPC did not come to consensus on an issue brought to them by Mary Finn and Joan Linsenmeier. The

question posed to the committee was this: Should Weinberg College allow course credit to be transferred from two-year community colleges and count toward a Weinberg degree for courses taken by a student after matriculation at Northwestern? For now the current policy will stay in place: After matriculation, work must be pursued at an accredited four-year institution to be eligible as transfer credit; no credits from a two-year college will be accepted. This does not alter in any way the current policy that allows students to transfer into Weinberg College from two-year institutions, and transfer credit according to general transfer-credit rules.

The School of Continuing Studies presented a proposal to offer existing Accounting courses in a totally online environment. These courses would be offered as part of a post-baccalaureate certificate available only to students who had already completed their undergraduate degree. The committee unanimously approved this proposal.

Finally, the CPC met with members of the central administration (Provost Dan Linzer and Associate Provosts Ron Braeutigam and Jake Julia) to discuss the possibility of Northwestern involvement in a multi-school consortium offering online courses through [2Tor](#). Discussions about this, and more broadly about online discussion, will continue in the fall.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Colburn  
Robert Holmgren  
Owen Priest  
Cynthia Robin  
Ian Hurd  
Marco Ruffini  
Arthur Jao, *student member*  
Abhit Bhandari, *student member*  
Joan Linsenmeier, *ex officio*  
Mary Finn, *ex officio*