

Report of the Weinberg Curricular Policies Committee for 2014-2015

May 20, 2015

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 6 times this academic year.

Neuroscience. The committee reviewed and approved a proposal for a major in Neuroscience to be offered by the Department of Neurobiology. The proposal was presented to the Weinberg faculty for a first reading in February 2015. A slightly revised proposal was approved by the Weinberg faculty in April 2015.

Online courses. The committee discussed several issues related to online coursework.

1. Chicago Field Studies online course. The committee reviewed and approved a course to be offered online through Chicago Field Studies, CFS 388-Field Studies in Business Culture. This is the second online CFS course approved by the committee and will facilitate student internships outside the Chicago area.

2. Approval process for online course offerings. In response to a request from the School of Professional Studies (SPS) for clarity on approval processes for online courses, the committee developed a general policy for future approvals. The policy applies to both SPS courses and courses offered by Weinberg departments and programs. (Weinberg College has oversight of some degrees, majors, minors, and courses within SPS.)

- A new course in a Weinberg discipline that is designed to be offered online requires the same approvals as other new courses: department/program approval and then approval by the Weinberg College Curricular Review Committee. [Note: This process was approved by the Weinberg faculty in 2013-14. It is included here for reference.]
- An existing course in a Weinberg discipline, currently offered in a classroom setting, can be offered online only with the approval of the relevant department or program. This approval should be reported to the Weinberg College Assistant Dean for Curriculum and Assessment.
- SPS business courses in areas for which Weinberg College has oversight are governed by the same processes as courses in Weinberg disciplines.
 - New courses designed to be offered online require approval by both the relevant department or program and the Curricular Review Committee. The Associate Dean for Undergraduate Academic Affairs will work with SPS to determine the appropriate department/program.
 - Existing courses require approval only by the relevant department or program in order to be offered online. This approval should be reported to the Assistant Dean for Curriculum and Assessment.

The committee further decided that online SPS courses in business fields should be offered only to SPS students in the coming year (though occasional exceptions may be made for Weinberg

students with special situations, and the other undergraduate schools may also approve exceptions for their students). This policy will be re-evaluated for future years.

3. Simultaneous enrollment in Northwestern courses and in non-Northwestern courses offered online. The 2014-2015 *Undergraduate Catalog* (page 19) states the following: “Students may not register concurrently at Northwestern and at another institution and receive transfer credit for work taken at the other institution unless permission is granted in advance by the office of the dean of their school.” The committee discussed whether a student taking classes at Northwestern should ever be permitted to simultaneously enroll in an online course from another institution. The decision was that such enrollment should not be banned. Instead, as with other requests for simultaneous enrollment, students’ requests should be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. A process for requests and evaluations will be developed by the Office of Undergraduate Studies and Advising.

Legal Studies. Weinberg College currently offers an adjunct major and a minor in legal studies. (Students completing an adjunct major must complete another major as well.) The committee discussed a proposal to (1) revise the requirements for the major, (2) make it a stand-alone, rather than adjunct, major, and (3) revise the requirements for the minor. The Legal Studies Program will revise the proposal in response to committee input. Dean Randolph will then have an opportunity to review the proposal and provide further input before it moves forward.

Social Inequalities and Diversities. The committee continued to discuss a proposal from the Academics/ Education Working Group of Northwestern’s Diversity Council calling for a degree requirement in “Social Inequalities and Diversities.” The committee also hosted a general Weinberg College Faculty Forum to allow faculty members from outside the committee to share their ideas on the value and nature of such a requirement. Discussions will continue in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,

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