CCGB Meeting Agenda, May 1, 2009

1. Approval of minutes
2. Undergraduate announcements
3. Presentation and discussion of a preliminary proposal for a sustainability requirement in the College of Engineering (Z. Warhaft and student group representatives)
4. Presentation and discussion of a draft motion on liberal studies categories (B. Philpot); motion attached
5. Possible discussion of proposed new ENGRI course (B. Bland)
6. Announcement on postponement of action on guidelines for physics substitution (B. Fisher)

CCGB Minutes, April 17, 2009

Ex-Officio: K. Dimiduk, R. Evans, L. Schneider
Other: B. Howland, M. Hutson, S. Marschner, N. Peterson, C. Pakkala

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the 3/27/09 CCGB Meeting were approved as written.

Undergraduate Announcements: M. Hutson announced that today is the last day to withdraw from a class with a petition and a W on the transcript.

Motion about the terminal math course substitution: D. Gries said that he, L. Lee, and L. Pollack re-worded the motion to make it easier. The CCGB can already approve terminal math courses for a major. In addition, once a new terminal math course is approved for a major, any major can allow it without asking the CCGB for approval —this was suggested by Andy Ruina. Existing course approvals for Math 2930 and Math 2940 are only for majors who already received the approvals. Other majors wanting to use an existing approved course must seek CCGB approval. The following motion passed unanimously.

1. After 18 April 2009, if a new terminal math course is approved for a Major, any other Major may (but doesn’t have to) allow it without asking the CCGB for approval;
2. Courses approved as terminal math courses before 18 April can be used only by the Majors who sought approval; they are listed below. Another Major wanting to use these terminal courses must seek approval from the CCGB; if approval is granted, the course can then be used by all Majors, as indicated in point 1.

Existing Substitutions for MATH 2930:
MATH 3040: ISST, ORE
CS 2800: CS, ISST, ORE

Existing Substitutions for MATH 2940:
CEE 3040: ChemE
ENGRD 2700: ChemE

Consideration of ENGRC 3500 as liberal studies in the LA category: W. Philpot said that the Liberal Studies Committee reviews proposed liberal studies courses and comes to a consensus. They didn’t reach a consensus on whether or not ENGRC 3500 should be placed in the category of Literature and the Arts (LA). D. Gries thanked S. Marschner for coming to the meeting to participate in the discussion. R. Evans said that he wants to know what type of information people may need in order to make a decision about the category. R. Bland stated that he doesn’t feel this course fits into the LA category. R. Evans explained that it was tentatively put into that category because art works doesn’t just encompass literature; there can be all different types of art works in various fields. Science writing can be quite artistic. Rhetoric looks at the art of communicating. Art in this instance is in the context of engineering and communication.

W. Philpot said that the Communications courses are listed in the SBA (Social and Behavioral Analysis) group. He contacted his counterpart in the CALS Communication Department and got no meaningful answer about why they use that category. S. Marschner said that he agrees that it is a valuable course. Communication is important
for engineers. However, this doesn’t seem like a literature class. It is communication in the context of engineering; not literature. Students can gain communication skills in courses in various liberal studies categories. A. Ruina said that the current rule says that students need 3 courses from 6 liberal studies categories. It is clear that a course like this should fit in some category other than a technical elective. R. Evans stated that he wants to encourage as many students as possible to take this course because surveys indicate that students need more instruction in communication and in thinking about how communication happens. The course is context-bound, i.e. how language works best. A. Ruina said that viewing previous CCGB rules isn’t appropriate; it is worth stretching the boundaries of the original language for the philosophical intent of the principles.

M. Louge stated that it doesn’t seem that the current rules are intuitive or make sense. When we can’t advise students about what liberal arts courses to take, there is something wrong with the rules. He thinks the whole thing should be scrapped and re-thought. We should survey our students and base some of our decisions (at least in part) on what they say. Gries said that, then, there are two issues. First, based on the current rules—only—we should decide whether ENGRC 3500 fits in category LA. Second, and this is an entirely different question, the CCGB can reconsider the liberal studies requirement. Don’t confuse the two issues.

R. Bland said that communication is the most glaring weakness of graduating students. He is in favor of reviewing how we’re managing the liberal electives. He only has 1-2 students per year who have problems with the categories. He doesn’t see how ENGRC 3500 fits the LA category. He would prefer to assign the course to another category.

L. Lee suggested that only in Engineering the name of the category be changed to Literature, the Arts and Communications. She is in favor of reviewing the categories.

R. Evans said that a lot of literature departments are changing to cultural studies departments. They are doing a different variety of what Communications is doing in engineering. A. Ruina suggested that the word “foreign” be removed from the Foreign Languages category to include all languages. W. Philpot said that we wouldn’t step on other college’s definitions. A. Ruina suggested that someone in favor of the motion could work on this. We need to get the wording right that makes everyone happy.

W. Philpot said that ENGRC 3500 has been in the LA category in the past year; he would like to keep it in this category.

A straw vote was taken to assess whether people think that ENGRC 3500 fits into the Literature and the Arts category. Vote: 3 members feel it fits, 4 members feel it doesn’t fit, and 2 members abstained.

All of the CCGB members voted that the course belongs in the broad liberal studies category.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.