

Committee on Educational Policy

March 13, 2024

In attendance: Faculty: Christopher Kingston, chair; Mekhola Gomes; David Hanneke; Catherine Infante; Geoffrey Sanborn. Invited participant: Director of Institutional Research and Registrar Services: Jesse Barba. Recorder: Nancy Ratner, Director of Academic Projects.

Chris Kingston, chair of the Committee on Educational Policy (CEP), called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m. in Porter Lounge. The committee approved the minutes from the previous meeting.

Curricular Practical Training (CPT)

Returning to the course to support Curricular Practical Training (CPT) for international students, Barba said the course—currently a half (two-credit) course, COLQ 390 H—could be converted to a quarter (one credit) course if it were resubmitted as COLQ 390 U. As a quarter course, students would be able to enroll in the colloquium three times, rather than the current limit of two iterations. Since such courses are not envisaged in our current faculty handbook wording, they would not count toward the 32 courses required for graduation, but would satisfy the credit requirement to enable international students to pursue internships. The CEP supported this idea and suggested the instructors submit this change as a major revision to the course.

New courses

The committee reviewed and approved additional courses, which will be brought to the faculty for an electronic vote in time for pre-registration.

Requiring instructor consent

Hanneke said he wondered whether faculty should be able to require their consent before a student who satisfies the prerequisites may register for a course. He noted that there are other ways to ensure that students have adequate preparation for the class. The committee agreed that there might be some situations where requiring consent might be warranted—courses that will involve international travel and will require the student to obtain a passport and visa, for example—but the committee thought this option should be discouraged in most other situations. Members suggested modifying the letter soliciting new courses next year to recommend alternative ways that faculty can manage enrollment.

New business

Sanborn said faculty teaching creative writing courses believe their classes have an artistic quality that more closely aligns them with the creative arts than with the humanities. They wonder if students could designate their courses as courses in the arts for the purpose of satisfying the Latin honors breadth requirement. The committee noted that the decision to use the department codes means that the arts division includes both creative and performing arts courses and also courses that seem at first glance to be more connected to the humanities; creative writing courses differ in significant ways from other humanities courses and should perhaps be designated as “creative arts” courses. Barba said it might be possible for the English department to offer multiple subject codes, with a code for creative writing courses that would allow them to be designated “arts” for Latin honors purposes. The CEP suggested the

department write a proposal with a new code for such courses, which could then be designated as an “arts” code. The committee also noted that the recently revised Latin honors system does not include any provision for the assignment of new subject codes to particular divisions - so the recently approved Asian American and Pacific Islander studies major, in particular, currently would not satisfy any honors breadth requirement. At some point, therefore, it would be desirable to ask the faculty to empower the CEP, in consultation with departments, to assign new subject codes to particular divisions for Latin honors breadth purposes.

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.