

Curricular Affairs Committee

Meeting Minutes for 21 August 2015 – Kayak Room (408 Rasmuson)

Present: Ken Abramowicz, Casey Byrne, Jennie Carroll, Mike Earnest, Alex Fitts, Catherine Hanks, Cindy Hardy, Eileen Harney, Jayne Harvie, Ginny Kinne, Jenny Liu, Lisa Lunn, Rainer Newberry, Caty Oehring, Patrick Plattet, Holly Sherouse

I. 2015-16 Chair

Since former chair Brian Cook left UAF over the summer, Rainer convened the committee at the request of President Debu Misra. However, being informed by President Misra that he is not a candidate for chairship, he opened the floor to nominations. Both Jennie Carroll and Ken Abramowicz expressed their willingness to chair. It was agreed that Ken will chair, and Jennie will serve as a vice-chair since she is new to the committee.

II. Future meeting times

A doodle poll will be distributed to look for a regular meeting time on either Monday or Wednesday afternoons. A larger meeting room needs to be looked into, now that the committee membership is larger.

An additional meeting next week was agreed to: Wednesday, August 26, 1-2 PM, location to be determined. The discussion will center on proposed changes to the GERs and Core curriculum. The committee would like to see a discussion occur at the September Faculty Senate meeting. New members need to be familiarized with the issues.

Progress and sticking points on the system academic calendar were discussed. Mike Earnest gave an update about the status of changes thus far, including common start and end dates, and holidays. He suggested the committee could invite Saichi Oba to a meeting to ask further questions and get more details. Concern was expressed by members for how word will get out to the communities about one shared week of spring break across the university, and the potential economic impacts.

Alex Fitts commented on the status of the General Education Revitalization Committee. Leah Berman, GERC chair last year, recommended the committee be dissolved, and suggested that some of the GERC members could be consulted or a smaller group be reconstituted as needed.

Rainer reported that the statewide GER committee has been silent.