

Minutes
Faculty Senate
October 20, 2011 – LNB 214

Chair Best called the meeting to order at 3:47 p.m.

- I. Senators Present: Bauer, Bausmith, Brodgon, Dittman, Eargle, Engelhardt, Flannagan, Fry, Gourley, Gualdi, Kelley, Kiely, McWayne, Meetze, Nagata, Newman, Ramey, Sacash, Shannon, Singleton, Smolen-Morton, Warter, Zahnd
Senators Absent: Carpenter (excused), Hill-Chapman
Also Present: Best (chair), Kennedy (parliamentarian)
- II. The Minutes from the September 28, 2011 Senate Meeting were approved as posted.
- III. Executive Committee Report – nothing to report.
- IV. Report from the Academic Council (*See attachment for proposals. See the appendix for supporting materials.*)
 - A. Mathematics
 1. Item A concerning prerequisite changes and course description changes for MATH 137. Passed as amended (amendment reflected in the attachment). - passed
 - B. English, Modern Languages, and Philosophy
 1. Item A concerning adding ENG 345 to the list of world or multicultural literature courses. - passed
 2. Item B concerning modifications to the PRS minor. - passed
 3. Item C concerning changes to the course description for PRS 201. – passed.
 4. Item D concerning changes to the course title and description for PRS 203. – passed.
 5. Item E concerning changes to the course title and description for PRS 301. – passed as amended (amendment reflected in the attachment to the minutes – NOT reflected in the posted Appendix for the meeting). - passed
 6. Item F concerning changes to the course title and description for PRS 302. – passed.
 7. Item G concerning changes to the course title and description for PRS 305. – passed.
 8. Item H concerning changes to the course title and description for PRS 306. – passed.
 9. Item I concerning changes to the course title and description for PRS 312. – passed.
 10. Item J concerning changes to the course description for PRS 397. – passed.
 11. Item K concerning the deletion of PRS 400. – passed.
 12. Item L concerning changes to the course description for PRS 401. – passed.
 13. Item M concerning changes to the course description for PRS 402. – passed.
 14. Item N concerning the addition of a new course, PRS 307, Asian Philosophy. – passed.
- V. Old Business – none
- VI. New Business – none
- VII. Announcements – the next senate meeting will be on Tuesday, November 8.
- VIII. Adjournment – the meeting adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

Attachment to the Faculty Senate Meeting – October 20, 2011

A. Proposal from the Department of Mathematics:

1. **Item A CHANGE**, on page 123 of the current catalog, the course description and prerequisite for **MATH 137**

FROM:

137 Pre-Calculus (3) (Prerequisite: Minimum score of 540 on the Quantitative Section of the SAT or permission of the department) F, S. Emphasis on analytic geometry and elementary functions. Includes lines and conic sections. Credit toward graduation cannot be earned for Math 137 and for any of Math 105, 110/110L, 111, 121, or 132.

TO:

137 Pre-Calculus (3) (Prerequisite: A grade of C or higher in Math 111, placement scores, or permission of the department.) A complete treatment of plane trigonometry, including the trigonometric functions, trigonometric identities, and solutions to and applications of right and arbitrary triangles; properties of functions, including their composition, inversion, and piecewise definition; techniques of graphing functions, including polynomial, rational, algebraic, exponential, and logarithmic functions; and other pre-calculus topics as time permits. Credit toward graduation cannot be earned for both Math 137 and Math 132.

Rationale: The proposed change strengthens the current course *Pre-Calculus* in several ways. First, it allows students to enter from Math 111 (*College Algebra with Analytic Geometry, II*). Also, the course Pre-Calculus is proposed to be (and in fact has been for years) so substantially over Math 111 that there is little to no overlap between it and Math 111. The newly worded course description makes this positioning of the course clear, by having Math 111 be a pre-requisite to Math 137. Finally, the course description is much more detailed and substantial, particularly in its requirement that a complete treatment of plane trigonometry be inside the course.

B. Proposal from the Department of English, Modern Languages, and Philosophy:

1. **Item A. ADD**, on page 89 of the current catalog, the following:

345 to the list of world or multicultural literature courses, between 322 and 445.

Rationale: 345 Issues in African-American Literature meets the requirements for the world or multicultural literature elective; it is a relatively new course and we neglected to add it to the list.

2. **Item B. MODIFY**, on page 103 of the current catalog, the general requirements for the PRS minor

FROM:

MINOR

A minor in philosophy requires 18 semester hours in philosophy and religious studies (six courses designated Philosophy and Religious Studies, at least two courses of which must be at the 300 level or higher) and must include Philosophy and Religious Studies 201, 203, and 306.

A minor in religious studies requires 18 semester hours in philosophy and religious studies (six courses designated Philosophy and Religious Studies, at least two courses of which must be at the 300 level or higher) and must include Philosophy and Religious Studies 202, 204, and 205.

COLLATERAL

A collateral in philosophy requires 12 semester hours in philosophy and religious studies and must include (four courses designated philosophy and religious studies, at least two of which must be at the 300 level or higher) and must include Philosophy and Religious Studies 201 and 203.

A collateral in religious studies requires 12 semester hours in philosophy and religious studies and must include four courses designated philosophy and religious studies, at least two of which must be at the 300 level or higher, and must include Philosophy and Religious Studies 202 and either 204 or 205.

TO:

MINOR

A minor in philosophy requires 18 semester hours in philosophy and religious studies (six courses designated Philosophy and Religious Studies, at least two courses must be at the 300 level or higher), and must include Philosophy and Religious Studies 201 and 203.

A minor in religious studies requires 18 semester hours in philosophy and religious studies (six courses designated Philosophy and Religious Studies, at least two courses must be at the 300 level or higher), and must include Philosophy and Religious Studies 202, 204, and 205.

COLLATERAL

A collateral in philosophy requires 12 semester hours in philosophy and religious studies and must include four courses designated philosophy and religious studies. At least two courses must be at the 300 level or higher, and must include Philosophy and Religious Studies 201 and 203.

A collateral in religious studies requires 12 semester hours in philosophy and religious studies and must include four courses designated philosophy and religious studies. At least two courses must be at the 300 level or higher, and must include Philosophy and Religious Studies 202 and either 204 or 205.

3. **Item C.** MODIFY, on page 104 of the current catalog, the course description of **PRS 201**

FROM:

201 Introduction to Philosophy (3) F, S, SU. On the nature of philosophical thinking. Discussion of the philosophical ideas which shape Western consciousness and civilization. Sample topics: philosophical examination of values, religion, and the foundation of society.

TO:

201 Introduction to Philosophy (3) An introduction to the discipline of philosophy. Topics covered include the nature of reality, problems about knowledge, the existence of God and nature of religious thinking, personal identity and immortality, consciousness and the mind/body problem, morality and ethics, and the nature and value of art.

4. **Item D.** MODIFY, on page 104 of the current catalog, the title and course description for **PRS 203**

FROM:

203 Logic (3) F, S, SU. Study of methods and principles used to distinguish well (correct) from bad (incorrect) reasoning. Consideration of hypothetical, inductive, and deductive reasoning.

TO:

203 Symbolic Logic (3) This course is an introduction to formal symbolic logic. Includes a study of truth tables and natural deduction, in both propositional as well as predicate logic. Topics in the philosophy of logic covered as time permits.

5. **Item E.** MODIFY, on page 104 of the current catalog, the title and course description for **PRS 301**

FROM:

301 Ancient Philosophy: The Greeks (3) S. Introduction to the development of Greek culture through consideration of certain key concepts. An in-depth study of the articulation of these concepts in the works of Plato, Aristotle, and others.

TO:

301 Ancient Philosophy: The Western Tradition (3) A study of the emergence of philosophy in the ancient Greek world. The course focuses primarily on the metaphysics, epistemology, and ethics of Plato and Aristotle, but will include a discussion of the Pre-Socratic, Hellenistic, and Roman philosophers as time permits.

6. **Item F.** MODIFY, on page 104 of the current catalog, the title and course description for **PRS 302**

FROM:

302 Philosophy in the Modern Age (3) F. Emergence of modern thought and culture through considering the articulation of modernity in such thinkers as Descartes, Hobbes, Locke, et al.

TO:

302 Modern Philosophy (3) This course is a study in two contrasting traditions of philosophy that arose in Europe in the 17th and 18th centuries: continental rationalism and British empiricism. Philosophers covered include Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley, and Hume. Of central concern will be these philosophers' views on the nature of knowledge and perception as

well as their accounts of the fundamental components of reality. The course concludes with a brief introduction to the philosophy of Immanuel Kant.

7. **Item G. MODIFY**, on page 104 of the current catalog, the title and course description for **PRS 305**

FROM:

305 Existentialist Thought (3) AS. Study of existentialism as a critical response to the philosophical problems peculiar to modern culture as presented in the writings of Kierkegaard, Sartre, Camus, et al.

TO:

305 Existentialism (3) Study of the rise and development of existentialism as a critical response to traditional philosophy and the character of the modern world. Existentialism will be explored through philosophy, literature, and film. Writers covered will include Kierkegaard, Dostoevsky, Nietzsche, Kafka, Heidegger, Sartre, Camus, et al.

8. **Item H. MODIFY**, on page 104 of the current catalog, the course description for **PRS 306**

FROM:

306 Ethics (3) S. Study of the basic ethical theories and their application to ethical dilemmas in the real world of human relations, politics, business, health care, etc.

TO:

306 Ethics (3) Study of ethical philosophy in both theoretical and practical dimensions. The course includes topics from the history of philosophy, as well as contemporary philosophical problems.

9. **Item I. MODIFY**, on page 104 of the current catalog, the title and course description for **PRS 312**

FROM:

312 Christian Philosophy in the Middle Ages (3) S. Examines the thought of the major philosophers of the Middle Ages, especially that of St. Augustine of Hippo and St. Thomas Aquinas. The major issues of the age will be discussed. Included are nominalism and realism, reason and revelation, faith and reason, nature and grace, the sacred and the secular.

TO:

312 Medieval Philosophy (3). A study of the philosophical traditions that developed in the West between the ancient Greco-Roman world and the world of modern Europe. In addition to the central figures of the Christian medieval tradition, primarily Augustine and Aquinas, the course will cover important philosophers from the Judaic and Islamic traditions.

10. **Item J. MODIFY**, on page 104 of the current catalog, the course description for **PRS 397**

FROM:

397 Special Topics (3) (Prerequisite: Permission of department) AF. In-depth

seminar in a topic in philosophy and/or religious studies. May be taken twice for academic credit with departmental approval.

TO:

397 Special Topics (3) (Prerequisite: Permission of department). In-depth seminar in a topic in philosophy and/or religious studies. May be taken twice for academic credit with departmental approval.

11. **Item K. DELETE**, on page 104 of the current catalog, **PRS 400, Science, Technology and Human Values.**

12. **Item L. MODIFY**, on page 104 of the current catalog, the course description for **PRS 401**

FROM:

401 Philosophy of Religion (3) AF. Study of selected topics from ancient times to the present emphasizing fundamental philosophical-theological problems.

TO:

401 Philosophy of Religion (3). Study of selected topics from ancient times to the present emphasizing fundamental philosophical-theological problems.

13. **Item M. MODIFY**, on page 104 of the current catalog, the course description for **PRS 402**

FROM:

402 Contemporary Philosophy (3) AF. Critical philosophical investigation in light of contemporary thinking of such topics as perception, language, mind, and God.

TO:

402 Contemporary Philosophy (3). Critical philosophical investigation in light of contemporary thinking of such topics as perception, language, mind, and God.

14. **Item N. ADD**, on page 104 of the current catalog, **PRS 307.**

307 Asian Philosophy (3) A survey of Asian philosophy, with a primary focus on the Indian and Chinese traditions. Includes orthodox and heterodox Hindu philosophy, Buddhist philosophy, Confucianism & Neo-Confucianism, Taoism, and Ch'an (Zen) Buddhist philosophy.

Rationale for proposed changes to PRS courses:

- B. The rationale is twofold: (a) I don't think that taking ethics is essential to the goals of the program, and (b) too many students have been caught off guard because I don't offer the course as frequently as is necessary to make this a legitimate requirement. Removing the requirement will enable PRS minors to complete all requirements for the minor in a timely fashion
- C. Changing the course description more accurately reflects the specific ways that I teach the

course. Additionally, I have removed the 'F', 'S', 'Su', etc. designations from all courses, since I never adhere to these. My rotation of courses is too large to permit the kind of consistency the catalog indicates.

- D. Same as C. I have added the additional information that this course will count for 3 of the required 6 math credits for BA students.
- E. Same as C.
- F. Same as C.
- G. Same as C.
- H. Same as C.
- I. Same as C.
- J. Removed 'AF' designation, as per the rationale in C.
- K. I have proposed to remove this course, because (a) I never teach it, nor do I intend to, and (b) the topics in this course could safely be covered in PRS 402, Contemporary Philosophy.
- L. Same as J.
- M. Same as J.
- N. I have successfully taught this course a few times as PRS 397, Special Topics. Student response was positive, and I believe it will be an important permanent fixture in the PRS program.