

TSO CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 13th, 2014 from 3:16 to 4:55, Room 1107

Present: Ahbreem Paige-Alatrisme (Chair), Virginia Binder, Carol DeCoursey, Bill Greaver, Jerry Harkleroad, Jay Hurwitz, Carol Maynard, Jim Maynard

Guests: Jim Cushing (Marketing Committee), Chris Steele

Not Present: Gloria Campbell, Bob Wilburn, Donnelly Wilburn

The meeting was called to order at 3:16 by Ahbreem Paige-Alatrisme, Chair.

Prior to the actual business meeting, Carol DeCoursey introduced her neighbor, Diane Althaus, an opera singer. At Carol's suggestion, Diane and her husband are working with Linda Roddis, TELOS program manager, to present a course on Opera in the Fall.

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the February 13 , 2014 meeting be approved with the section on old Business/New Business covering Jim Maynard's comments be amended as follows: . . . For instance he (Jim Maynard) wanted to know how courses and instructors were to be selected, which topics were preferred as ***our courses should reflect as broad as possible a content within guidelines acceptable for a college or university and wondered whether BC had any specific guidelines in this regard***, the hours courses could be offered and the number of classrooms available with information about the sizes of each. **The amended minutes were eventually approved unanimously.**

Chair's Report. Ahbreem reported that she had spent fifteen days in the hospital and was now healing. She plans to continue as Chair of the committee. She also reported on a meeting with Linda Roddis that occurred several weeks ago. Linda encouraged her to wait on committee activity due to the many changes happening in the BCCE administration.

Progress Reports. No progress reports regarding a survey draft or planning of new courses were covered due to time constraints.

Old Business. Similarly, the agenda topics of arranging for a feedback mechanism from TELOS management about new courses suggested by the Committee or its members, or the accepted procedure for suggesting new courses were not discussed due to time constraints.

New Business

- **Curriculum.** The majority of the meeting time was spent discussing the appropriate content of the TELOS curriculum and how to collaborate with the TELOS administration to achieve that curriculum. It was pointed out that some of the Spring quarter courses seemed to have moved away from an academic focus to those not usually found in the college environment. They are of the type more typically taught at a senior center or a community center.

Jim and Carol Maynard have explored the nature of the courses taught at other senior learning centers, most notably the Edmonds Community College Creative Retirement Institute and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the UW. The philosophy of both programs stresses providing courses on thought provoking topics on a range of subjects. The Edmonds program specifically describes "college level academic experiences." Beyond looking at the stated philosophy of the two programs, the Maynards reviewed the course offerings and found them all to be academically oriented and consonant with curricula generally taught at public colleges and universities. In Jim Maynard's report he stated that the philosophy of the TELOS program also notes that the curriculum is designed for the population of people over 55 who seek a college level educational experience. However, a review of the Spring offerings shows courses which could be described as pseudo-scientific, others reflecting spiritual harmony, and some which may be designed to advance the instructor's business or ideology. Chris suggested that there could possibly be a two tier structure of the curriculum which would include both academic courses and those that are less so. Carol DeCoursey pointed out that she would hate to see the curriculum reflect only orthodox views which coincided with the views of those creating the curriculum.

Jim Maynard further pointed out that the instructors for the courses in the Edmonds Community College Creative Retirement Institute and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UW come from retired

high school and college teachers and other community experts. The instructors in the TELOS program are derived from a variety of professional community backgrounds both academic and non-academic. Recent recruitment has derived more prominently from the student body itself. Ahbreem added that she was under the impression that TELOS administration planned to seek more credentialed instructors in the future. Bill Greaver noted that the current Schedule of Classes provides only instructor's names, but no biographical information as in the past. Some biographical information was supposed to be posted on the TELOS website, but the website is not yet functioning.

There was considerable discussion about the best approach to collaborating with the BCCE administration. One perspective involved asking them to present their philosophy of structuring the curriculum to our committee and the other involved formulating our philosophy first and presenting it to them. The two new members, Jim and Jay, asked for clarification on the structure of TSO and how the Curriculum Committee fits in as well as knowledge about the structure of the BCCE board and the intended means of collaboration between the two. Chris Steele spelled this out on the board for all to understand.

Jim Maynard moved and it was seconded that the Curriculum Committee clarify its purpose and intent, then request a meeting with the administration. This motion passed unanimously. Two members of the committee agreed to draft a statement reflecting the committee's views of the ideal curriculum and means of collaboration with the BCCE administration to achieve it.

Furthermore it was reported that the administration plans to do a study on TELOS and the other continuing education programs. The members of the committee felt that it was important that there be representation from TSO in the design and implementation of the study about TELOS. Many of the administrators have business backgrounds and are not as familiar with academia and teaching seniors.

- **Coordination with Marketing Committee.** Jim Cushing from the Marketing Committee described a TELOS Speakers' series with monthly presentations on topics of interest to current and potential TELOS students. Initially the presenters will be TELOS instructors providing a one hour presentation followed by a Q and A session and informal social gathering. The goal of the program is to raise awareness of TELOS both internally at Bellevue College and externally with the target demographic in the community;. Jim Cushing was interested in gauging the interest of the Curriculum Committee in co-sponsoring the program.

Bill Greaver moved and it was seconded that the Curriculum Committee work with the Marketing Committee on this project. The motion passed unanimously. Bill Greaver agreed to be the point person from the Curriculum Committee in coordinating with the Marketing Committee.

- **Arranging for Class hosts.** At the recent council meeting, Linda Roddis had requested help from TSO in setting up class hosts. Virginia Binder indicated that was an appropriate task for the Curriculum Committee. Prior to today's meeting, she had exchanged e-mails with Linda seeking her suggestions for ways to contact potential hosts without violating FERPA requirements. The Curriculum Committee was to have drafted a plan during today's meeting. However, this agenda item was not given priority so there was not sufficient time. Virginia indicated that she would draft a plan and circulate it to committee members for their comments and approval.

The meeting closed at 4:55 p.m. The next meeting is Thursday, April 10th at 3:15 in Room 1107.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Binder, Secretary
Curriculum Committee

These minutes have not yet been approved.