

TSO CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Present Virginia Binder, Gloria Campbell, Carole DeCoursey, Steve Funk, Bill Greaver, Randy Johnson, Ahbreem Paige-Alatraste, Bob Wilburn, Donnelly Wilburn

Guests present Linda Roddis, Rick Bodlaender

The meeting began at 1:10, led by Ahbreem Paige-Alatraste, Chair.

The regular meeting time will be the second Thursday of each month at 3:15. If an additional meeting is needed, it will be held on the third Thursday.

Alternates for Chair's Position. Bill Greaver will be the first alternate and Carole De Coursey will be the second alternate. Duties for the alternates may include leading the meeting in Ahbreem's absence, serving as liaison to Linda Roddis, and sitting in on applicant interviews. There were no volunteers for an alternate to the secretary.

Committee agenda. Most of the discussion centered on what role the committee would play in the functioning of TSO and TELOS. The majority of those present were interested in setting up a procedure for identifying potential courses and instructors. Carole began by mentioning two ideas (1) openness in local government and (2) what power corporations should have, along with possible instructors for the courses. The committee is interested in identifying such courses and will regularly submit ideas to Linda Roddis via Ahbreem, Curriculum Committee Chair. Linda prefers to receive ideas from one source rather than numerous individual contacts.

The Committee is also interested in surveying as many TELOS students and instructors as possible to get their suggestions for topics and instructors. The Curriculum Committee would collate and organize the responses to the survey. Where interesting topics are suggested without instructors, the Committee could help in recruiting appropriate instructors. Conducting such a survey provides challenges as TSO has only about 110 e-mail addresses in its database but there are far more students enrolled in the courses. It may be possible to send out a message to all enrollees from the BC-CS TELOS student database or distribute surveys in the classes. Bob Wilburn will develop a short survey with the hope that it can be distributed in winter quarter classes. It was suggested that students may be more willing to submit their e-mail addresses if messages are sent blind thus keeping their e-mail addresses confidential.

Linda Roddis, Telos Program Manager, provided answers to many questions raised by the committee.

- What information about future scheduling is appropriate for the Curriculum Committee to know?
Answer: Linda indicated willingness to share information as long as it was not confidential. For instance she noted that she could alert the committee to topics for upcoming courses.
- How is screening of instructors done?
Answer: Applicants should provide a course plan and resume. After that they will be interviewed. Linda noted that she looks for credentials and/or experience in the field and in teaching. She mentioned that some of her interviewees have been rejected for such issues as lack of interest in teaching the TELOS age group, inability to attend all of the classes, a hidden indoctrination agenda vs. educational objectives, duplication of course topics, etc.
- Are there limits to the number of courses which could be offered?
Answer: Not at this time. The limit would be set by classroom space, but there is still plenty available.
- What blocks of time for classes are currently possible?
Answer: Currently courses are being offered for four, six, eight, and ten weeks. It may also be possible to hold day-long seminars though this would involve coordination with Bellevue College regarding space.
- How far in advance must ideas be submitted:
Answer: At this time the spring 2014 schedule is almost complete and must be finalized by January 7th. Thus the earliest the committee could have impact on topic/instructor selections would be Fall of 2014. Basically, planning should be done a year in advance. Fortunately, the Spring schedule is quite full – being larger than the one in the Spring of 2013.

Linda also described some of her concerns and those of people who contact her office.

- She is concerned about continuing to grow the student body for the TELOS courses, but agreed that is the function of the Marketing Committee.
- Some students are concerned about how to get involved with the social aspects of TSO, but that is the function of the Events committee.
- For those unable to afford TELOS courses, a scholarship fund is being developed. This would be done in conjunction with the Marketing Committee.

As the TAG Curriculum Committee has in the past arranged the organization of tent cards, there was a question about whether the current Committee should take on that responsibility. Linda stated that the TELOS office would be handling that. In addition the TELOS office will be handling training of instructors and other tasks previously handled by the TAG Curriculum Committee.

The meeting closed at 2:32 p.m. The next meeting is Thursday, January 9th at 3:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Binder, Secretary
Curriculum Committee