

Humanities and Natural Sciences College Assembly
Bobet Hall 332
November 17, 2011
12:30-1:45 p.m.

AGENDA

REVISED

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Invocation**
- III. Approval of Minutes of October 20, 2011**
- IV. Announcements** (Dean JoAnn Cruz)
- V. Reports**
Program/Center/Institute Review - SCAP
- VI. Motions / Old Business**
 - 1. Motion for Composition of the Council of Chairs (Dean JoAnn Cruz)
“The voting membership of the Council consists of the dean and all chairpersons. Assistant/Associate Deans and a representative from the directors in the College are non-voting and ex-officio members.”
 - 2. Statement on Creative Arts and Cultures Criteria from the CPT and Council of Chairs
(Dean JoAnn Cruz, Dr. Don Hauber, Dr. Blanca Anderson, and Dr. Chris Chambers)
See attachments.
Suggested motions:
“Accept the statement of the CPT with regard to the Creative Arts and Cultures Criteria in its entirety.”
Or
“Accept the final paragraph of the statement of the CPT with regard to the Creative Arts and Cultures Criteria, with the full statement appended.”
- VII. Move to Adjourn**

Attachments (“Creative Arts and Cultures Criteria” statement and the referenced document)

Statement on Creative Arts and Cultures Criteria (HNS College Assembly 11/17/11)

November 7, 2011

Statement from the CHNS College Planning Team in regards to the document entitled “Creative Arts and Cultures in the Common Curriculum”

This undated and unsigned document has not been a part of any agenda before the CCITF or the SCCC, has not been available to them or discussed by them. Nor was it part of the CMFA response to the proposed revised Common Curriculum. The document predates the appointment of the workgroups whose responsibility it is to develop criteria for the courses under each rubric of the revised Common Curriculum (given to the Creative Arts and Cultures Workgroup at their first meeting on October 4, 2011), and in essence it is an attempt to dictate the criteria for this common curriculum requirement to the workgroup whose task it is to develop those criteria.

Not only does this undermine the workgroup but the document limits the criteria to courses within the CMFA to the exclusion of courses on cultures and on the literary arts. This exclusion disregards a compromise between the Creative Arts/Humanities requirement supported by the College of Humanities and Natural Sciences and the requirement as envisioned by the College of Music and Fine Arts. The document does not reflect the consensus of the CCITF on November 5, 2010 and the unanimous vote of the CCITF in favor for the Creative Arts and Cultures requirement on November 12, 2010.

In attempting to excise the cultures part of the requirement from the criteria, it thereby excludes all but a very small number of courses in CHNS. For example, courses on Viking or Greek culture (which were examples explicitly cited as courses that would be included in a Creative Arts and Culture requirement) would be excluded. That it was the intent of the CCTIF and the SCCC to broaden the definition is clear from the composition of the workgroup, which includes members from CHNS as well as CSS.

Insofar that the document in question has not gone through the CCTIF or the SCCC, has not been discussed by these committees, and preempts the work of the Workgroup on the Creative Arts and Cultures requirement, we, on behalf of the College of Humanities and Natural Sciences, cannot accept its legitimacy. We ask that it be set aside and the normal channels set up for the development of criteria for the revised Common Curriculum be followed and that the unanimous vote and clear consensus of the CCTIF be respected.

Attachment: Scanned version of the above-referenced document “*Creative Arts and Cultures in the Common Curriculum*,” 2 pp.

Creative Arts and Cultures in the Common Curriculum

The study of Creative Arts and Cultures within the Common Curriculum reflects the university's commitment to the education of the whole person. Courses under this rubric strive to help students understand and explore the human need for artistic expression that is manifested in almost every culture and epoch throughout human history, from Sophoclean drama to the art and architecture of a medieval cathedral, from the music of Africa to contemporary American poetry. Artistic expression can be of special value to students seeking an education in the Jesuit tradition, since it can open unique opportunities for personal growth, spiritual insight and discernment, and the understanding of diverse cultures of the past and present.

Artistic expression may be studied through the creation or performance of art works, or through the study of the world's art traditions. Moreover, since no art is created outside of a broader cultural context, the examination of the art products of cultures of the past and present through various disciplinary perspectives has a valuable role to play in this part of the Common Curriculum. However, the primary purpose of this requirement is understood to be the study of the representational arts, the dramatic arts, and the musical arts. In this context, the requirement is understood to encompass the study of the materials, tools, and practices of these arts, how these arts reflect and affect both the societies in which they are created and those in which they exert their force and effect, and how these arts communicate meaning. Accordingly, courses offered under the Creative Arts and Cultures rubric will originate from and be housed in the College of Music and Fine Arts, except as noted below.

Courses would qualify for inclusion within the Creative Arts and Cultures part of the Common Curriculum if they satisfy any of the following criteria:

Courses in which students participate directly in the creation or performance of art works. These courses would include: classes in the applied visual arts; classes in acting, oratory, dance, theatrical production, and design; classes in music performance, composition, or production; classes in creative writing; classes in film production.

Courses in which students study the history and meaning of a particular body of art works, or the history and meaning of an art tradition. These courses would include: classes devoted to the work of a particular artist, composer, or director, or to a particular period or school of visual art, architecture, design (or other forms of visual culture), music, theater, dance, or film; classes in the history or analysis of visual art, music, theater, or film that foster an understanding of the development of these arts in the Western tradition or in one or more world traditions, and develop students' powers of artistic discernment.

Specific Humanities and Social Science courses that examine the history or practice of the visual arts, music, theater, dance, or film through various disciplinary perspectives. Though not taught in the College of Music and Fine Arts, these courses would foster an understanding of the development of these arts in the Western tradition or in one or more world traditions.