

**Draft Minutes for Curricular Affairs Committee  
Oct 12 2011, 3:30-4:30 pm Kayak**

Voting Members Present:

Brian Himelbloom (audio); Carrie Baker; Dave Valentine; Debra Moses; Diane McEachern (audio); Jungho Baek; Rainer Newberry, Chair; Retchenda George-Bettisworth; Todd Radenbaugh (audio)

Voting Members Absent: Anthony Arendt,

Non-voting Members Present: Lillian Misel, Libby Eddy (for Mike Earnest); Linda Hapsmith; Donald Crocker.

Non-voting Members Absent: Dana Thomas; Doug Goering

Guest: Pete Pinney

Taking Notes: Jayne Harvie

**A. OLD Business**

**1. Approval of 28 Sept Minutes**

Minutes were approved as distributed.

**2. Recent GERC issues (chairperson, etc) —comments by Carrie Baker**

Alex Fitts was chosen by the GERC to chair the committee. She's a good fit for the position because she's a full professor with general education background. She will be a voting member of the committee.

The GER Committee decided upon a two-thirds' majority standard for decision-making; though they may be able to use the consensus method based on the committee's past experience.

CEM membership is still lacking; Doug Goering is still talking to Rajive Ganguli.

The representative for the A.A. program will be Mahla Strohmaier, but in her absence (family medical leave) Arvid Weflen has agreed to substitute.

Pete P. asked about having Michael Koskey on the committee to represent the university's mission regarding Alaska Natives. Carrie said the committee had initially considered his nomination as a rep from Rural Development, which is a relatively small department; but, in this broader context they would be willing to consider him again. Pete will write an email statement for Carrie to take to the committee.

Linda Hapsmith noted that Latrice L. and Leah Berman will rep for Math, depending upon what fits into their teaching schedules.

Rainer asked the group if there was a consensus on having Alex Fitts chair the GERC, and the answer was yes.

**3. 'Stacked' courses** -- Tony was not able to present at this meeting, so the topic will be taken up at the next committee meeting.

**4. NON-UAF courses taught AT high schools FOR high school students with UAF 100-level designators—Rainer** **Suggestion: students *taking such must have passed the SOA HS Exit Exams***

Rainer clarified that the courses under discussion are those which are non-UAF courses taught at high schools and designed specifically for high school students. Curriculum Review Committee is seeing them proposed more frequently for the purpose of attracting the students to a particular field of study (e.g., teaching, fisheries) and to UAF. The problem lies in the fact

that instructors and schools wish the courses to have 100-level status so that students earn college credit while taking them at the high school. The issue becomes whether or not the course is rigorous enough to merit 100-level status. Right now, CRC has handled the course requests by approving them as trial courses only.

It's been suggested that the State of Alaska High School exit exam scores be used to gauge student eligibility to enroll in such courses. If the student had passing grades in all three areas of these exams, they would be allowed to enroll in the course and earn college credit. The majority of eligible students would thus be juniors in high school.

Discussion followed about the rigor of the SOA HS exams and what passing scores actually mean, which is a minimal level of skills to graduate from high school. Libby E. asked who would actually monitor these scores at the high schools, noting that it could be a very subjective process. It was generally agreed that a student should have to present evidence of passing scores on the exit exams.

Pete P. noted two perspectives on college courses in high school. 1.) There's a marked difference in a vocation or tech pr



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