

Curriculum Renewal White Paper: Highlights

Ryerson University Senate

May 1, 2012

The Framework – June 2011

- “Core” Courses building:
 - ✓ A “Specialization” of 25 to 30 courses or 60% to 75% of the curriculum OR
 - ✓ A “Double major” of 26 to 30 courses (13 to 15 from each of two disciplines) at 60% to 75% of the curriculum
- “Professionally Related Electives” 4 to 14 courses or 10 to 30% of the curriculum
- “Liberal Studies” 6 courses (4 for engineering) or 15% of the curriculum
- The new minors policy

Omnibus Curriculum Policy

- Program Nomenclature: major/combined major/concentration/minor.
- Course Categories: Core (includes core electives), Breadth Electives (6 required, 4 for Engineering), Open Electives.
- Writing Intensive Courses (6 in program; 4 for Engineering), taken in any of the three categories.
- Mandated breadth as a medium-term goal.

Omnibus Curriculum Policy

- Multi-Purposing of Courses
 - ✓ Students can choose BEs as OEs once they have the required 6 BEs (4 for Engineering).
 - ✓ Students can use core electives as OEs if:
 - ❖ the core electives chosen are not those already used to meet core program content requirements
 - ❖ at least two of the OEs are true OEs i.e. not core electives

Governance

- Breadth Elective and Writing Committee
 - ✓ Sub-Committee of Academic Standards.
 - ✓ Mandate – Establish criteria/procedures to approve courses for designation as BE or W.
 - ✓ Mandate - Make recommendations to ASC which, in turn, recommends to Senate.
 - ✓ All Faculties represented, student representation, Vice Provost Academic is Chair.

Adapting to a Changing Landscape- Special Implementation Task Force

➤ Processes/Criteria to:

- ✓ Create and maintain restrictions/exclusions for OEs.

- ❖ Restrictions: departments and schools limit some of their core courses to their own program students

- ❖ Exclusions : departments and schools exclude their own students from enrolling in particular open electives

Special Implementation Task Force (cont'd)

- ✓ Ensure student access
 - ❖ Work to improve course intentions
 - ❖ Assess SCIF in light of new framework
 - ❖ Explore possible targets for overall annual increases in number of OE seats
 - ❖ Explore possible caps for OEs, setting out seat proportions for program and non-program students

Special Implementation Task Force (cont'd)

- ✓ Explore ways to present OEs/BEs to facilitate student choice.
- ✓ Sequence introduction of W-courses so that it becomes a graduation requirement.
- ✓ Identify resource needs for implementation.

Adapting to a Changing Landscape

- Development of the list of Open Electives.
- Dialogue with programs to facilitate curricular alignment (Summer 2012).
- Partial and temporary moratorium on minor curricular changes starting October 2013.
- Implementation timelines: 2014 – 2019.

Benefits

- Student choice (within and external to their core) and program design flexibility.
- Greater viability of interdisciplinary programming (e.g., combined majors, minors).
- Mandated breadth over time.
- More transparent curriculum policy, easier to modify when appropriate.

Next Steps

- Release of White Paper to the community (within the next few days).
- Community feedback to mid-May.
- Bring modified White Paper to June Senate for approval.
- Summer 2012, set up implementation task force and the real work begins.....

Let me know what you think

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