



Old Westbury

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: B. Runi Mukherji, Chair, Faculty Senate

FROM: CAP Committee

DATE: April 19, 1993

RE: Language and Literature Major

According to the Faculty By-Laws, the Committee on Curriculum and Academic Planning is charged with the following:

"...The Committee will be the recipient of proposals for curricular and academic development raised by programs, individuals, and administration. If a proposal is made that the College establish a new program other than those already approved by the Faculty in the new proposals submitted by the Long Term Academic Planning Committee, a reasonably detailed letter of intent will be submitted to the Committee for discussion and decision. If the decision is positive, the Committee on Curriculum and Academic Planning will submit to the Faculty Senate the detailed proposals and, if approved, make the appropriate recommendations to the Academic Vice President. A similar process will be followed with other curricular proposals not involving the formation of a new program."

During the Spring Semester of 1992, CAP spent approximately two to three months discussing a proposal received from English Language Studies, "B.A. in English Language Studies" as well as a Preproposal for a B.A. in Language and Literature from Comparative Humanities. The Committee thought that there was merit in both proposals, and sent a memorandum to Dr. Kenneth O. Hall (attached) requesting that the Office of Academic Affairs take the leadership in attempting to reach a compromise. The Committee received a response dated May 8, 1992 (attached).

In addition, in the Spring of 1992 Faculty Council heard a presentation by English Language Studies about the lack of approval of their proposal by CAP. The Chair of the Faculty Council contacted the Chair of CAP about the problem. The Chair of CAP expressed concern about this procedure where CAP was not given a hearing by Faculty Council. The Chair of CAP told the Chair of Faculty Council that if CAP received a written request from Faculty Council, the CAP Committee would respond in kind. Such a request was never received by CAP.

Attached you will find a chronology of events.

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS REGARDING THE LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE PROPOSAL

November 1991 CAP received a Letter of Intent for a B.A. in English Language Studies dated October 29, 1991. An Addendum dated November 13, 1991, was received about the middle of November.

December 1991 CAP noted that the Letter of Intent referred to many courses from other programs. CAP sent the Letter of Intent to American Studies, Comparative Humanities, Teacher Education and Modern Languages with a request for comments. Responses were received from all four liberal arts programs. The response from Comparative Humanities took the form of an alternate preproposal.

February 1992 CAP requested a meeting with the ELS Program to discuss the Letter of Intent on February 14, 1992. The meeting was postponed to February 28, 1992 at the request of the ELS Program. At this meeting CAP requested clarification of certain items in the Letter of Intent. This response was received in a memo dated March 5, 1992.

March 1992 CAP discussed the Letter of Intent and the responses from other programs.

April 1992 On April 2, 1992, CAP sent a memo to Comparative Humanities and English Language Studies with copies to American Studies and Modern Languages (attached). Comparative Humanities and Modern Languages responded. The Committee has not heard from ELS since a memo of April 8, 1992, in which CAP is accused of refusing support for a degree in ELS. In the hope of resolving the impasse, and recognizing that CAP does not have any authority or desire to assign degrees to any program, CAP requested that the Academic Vice President take a role in the resolution of the problem.

May 1992 CAP received a response to this request dated May 8, 1992 (attached).

September 1992 At its first meeting of the Fall 1992 semester, CAP attempted to reach a decision about all proposals which had been submitted to SUNY/State Education. At that time, we agreed to review all proposals as quickly as possible. At that meeting we learned from the Academic Vice President that there was a proposal in Language and Literature. We asked if it was the same proposal as had been submitted as a Letter of Intent. We were told that this proposal was based on the old Language and Literature Concentration. We were told that the proposal had been submitted by ELS and that we should request a copy from that program. We requested the proposal and we received no answer. We also requested a copy from the Academic Vice President and were told that we could not review it until it had been approved by State Education.

February 1993 CAP received a copy of the Language and Literature Proposal under a memo dated February 8, 1993. In spite of the fact that CAP was extensively involved in the development of the new proposal for Communicative Arts, the Committee reviewed the proposal as quickly as possible and forwarded its recommendation to the Faculty Senate.

State University of New York / College at Old Westbury

Old Westbury
Long Island, New York 11568
Telephone (516) 876-3000

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Comparative Humanities
English Language Studies

FROM: Committee on Curriculum and Academic Planning *ELC (Faculty)*

DATE: April 2, 1992

RE: Curriculum Planning for a New Degree

Two years ago, after reviewing all the data then available, CAP concluded that the foremost objective of the College's academic planning efforts in the current period should be the restoration of an appropriate balance between liberal arts and professional programs. To accomplish this objective, CAP identified a number of possible strategies, one of which was the development of new degree options in the liberal arts.

CAP finds there is considerable interest in the faculty in the development of a degree option in the area of literature/language. (Both ELS and Comparative Humanities have submitted proposals for CAP's consideration.) The Committee has concluded, after reviewing all the documents, that pursuit of a new degree option in this area would be appropriate.

CAP's criteria for the development of new degrees is that they should be: (1) grounded within existing programs; (2) constructed as much as possible out of existing resources; (3) designed to offer opportunities for multi-cultural perspectives; and (4) designed to offer the possibility of interdisciplinary contributions.

Applying these criteria to the idea of a new degree in the area of literature/language, CAP has reached the following conclusions:

- A. That of all the possibilities, a major in literature housed within Comparative Humanities would best fulfill CAP's general criteria for development of new degrees;
- B. That the outline Comparative Humanities has submitted for a literature degree offers a promising foundation on which to proceed;
- C. That three other programs - American Studies, ELS and Modern Languages - could contribute courses to a literature degree;

- D. That ELS in particular could offer an important component in language and literacy that could take the form of an upper division specialization within the literature major.

Based on these conclusions CAP is writing to request the following:

1. That the Comparative Humanities Program go forward to develop a full pre-proposal for a major in literature in consultation with American Studies, ELS and Modern Languages;
2. That the ELS Program go forward to work out a component in language and literacy that could be incorporated into the literature major as one of the upper division "specializations" envisioned in the outline submitted by Comparative Humanities.

Please let CAP know how you intend to proceed. We would like to be as helpful as possible in bringing this project to a successful conclusion.

jlh

cc: American Studies
Modern Languages
Faculty Council

State University of New York / College at Old Westbury

Old Westbury
Long Island, New York 11568
Telephone (516) 876-3000

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Dr. Kenneth O. Hall
Academic Vice President

FROM: Committee on Curriculum and Academic Planning *Edgar J. Jant*

DATE: April 15, 1992

RE: Development of an English (or literature) major

Over the past three or four months CAP has been considering the draft of a letter of intent submitted by the English Language Studies Program. During the discussions of the proposal we received an outline of a curriculum for a literature major from the Comparative Humanities Program. In our memo of April 2, 1992, the committee made the following observations and recommendations:

Applying these criteria to the idea of a new degree in the area of literature/language, CAP has reached the following conclusions:

- A. That of all the possibilities, a major in literature housed within Comparative Humanities would best fulfill CAP's general criteria for development of new degrees;
- B. That the outline Comparative Humanities has submitted for a literature degree offers a promising foundation on which to proceed;
- C. That three other programs - American Studies, ELS and Modern Languages - could contribute courses to a literature degree;
- D. That ELS in particular could offer an important component in language and literacy that could take the form of an upper division specialization within the literature major.

Based on these conclusions CAP requests the following:

1. That the Comparative Humanities Program go forward to develop a full pre-proposal for a major in literature in consultation with American Studies, ELS and Modern Languages;
2. That the ELS Program go forward to work out a component in language and literacy that could be incorporated into the literature major as one of the upper division "specializations" envisioned in the outline submitted by Comparative Humanities.

The committee wishes to clarify its position for the Office of Academic Affairs. The committee believes that the development of an English or Literature major would be a significant addition to the college curriculum. It is also the view of the committee that the development of such a major is best accomplished through significant contributions from the English Language Studies Program and the Comparative Humanities Program. Course contributions should also be made from the American Studies and Modern Languages programs. The ELS proposal, on its own, is not sufficient for a degree and the outline presented by Comparative Humanities (see attached) lacks the language and literacy component which is in the ELS Proposal. The committee also takes the position that the college should not develop two separate degrees. The committee has come to the conclusion that the needs of students are best served by the development of a new pre-proposal which would be an integration of the two suggested curricula.

The committee understands that we do not have the responsibility for assignment of development of proposals to any program. We recommend that the Office of Academic Affairs review all of the documents and then assign the responsibility for the preparation of a new pre-proposal to be submitted to CAP. The committee further recommends that if it is at all possible, this assignment should be made before the end of the Spring 1992 semester.

If you wish to discuss this matter with CAP, we will be happy to do so. If you need any additional documents, please let me know.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

jlh

Attachment

cc: Faculty Council
English Language Studies
Comparative Humanities
American Studies
Modern Languages

AN OUTLINE FOR A LITERATURE MAJOR (Total of 11 courses, 44 credits)

1. Introductory course, required for all majors within the CH Program: Writing and Research in the Humanities (3000 level). This replaces the "Writing and Research Workshop" and would also satisfy the upper-division "writing in the discipline" General Education requirement.

2. Foundations (4 courses)

a) Two semester survey of literature.

Either:

1. European literature (offered now) and
2. Non-western literature, organized by some guiding principle, like colonialism and responses to it. (A version of this is offered currently.)

3000 level
Or:

1. A two-semester survey of English literature. This would be a new course developed by either CH faculty or other faculty with a background in English literature.

b) American literature (one from a number of survey courses offered by American Studies.)

c) Language: Either "Intro to Language" (upgraded) or "The Structure of English" or "The Politics of Language." (All are already existing courses)

3. Methodology: "Approaches to Literature." (presently offered)

4. Specialization: Upper-division electives (4 courses)

To reinforce the interdisciplinary and multi-cultural perspective of the CH program, students would organize their upper division work on the basis of cultural traditions. They would take an interdisciplinary CH culture course and then do a series of literature courses related to it. Courses from other programs--American Studies, English Language Studies, and Modern Languages--would be included. A creative writing concentration is an option. This section must be worked out with a faculty adviser.

For example: A student could take a core course in the Western tradition and then choose from a variety of courses like Greek Drama, Shakespeare, Modern English Literature, the Modern

Novel or a student could take a world cultures core course e.g. African culture, and take courses in African literature and Afro-American literature.

A similar stream could be worked out in the American cultural tradition. A student could take American Myths and Values, or America's African Heritage and then do a series of courses in American literature or African-American literature (or any other grouping of ethnic voices in American literature).

It should be noted that a Creative Writing option would exist as well for those students interested in pursuing an MFA. Enough courses presently exist at the college with cross-listing from American Studies, ELS and Modern Languages to mount this major. Any additional offerings from ELS faculty, particularly in the area of traditional English literature would further serve to strengthen the curriculum.

5. Senior Seminar: (This already exists)

The CH program recently redesigned the Senior Seminar. It will be based on a recurrent and significant theme in the humanities treated from an interdisciplinary perspective. All majors within the program would take this with an accompanying thesis done within the student's particular major. A similar approach is taken at Brooklyn College where English majors can satisfy their Senior Seminar requirement through an interdisciplinary seminar (literature and philosophy) on a significant theme.

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
College at Old Westbury

DATE: April 24, 1992

TO: Kenneth O. Hall, Vice President for
Academic Affairs

FROM: Committee on Curriculum and Academic Planning
(CAP)

RE: CAP Memo of April 15, 1992 *Edgar G. Gentry*

The CAP Committee has not received a response to its memo of April 15, 1992; the subject of which was "Development of an English (or literature) major." We have been informed that you have publicly stated that you were forced to assume responsibility in this matter, due to the fact that CAP had not performed its duties. We would like to draw your attention to the following recommendations that were made in the CAP memo of April 15th:

1. That the Comparative Humanities Program go forward to develop a full pre-proposal for a major in literature in consultation with American Studies, ELS and Modern Languages;
 2. That the ELS Program go forward to work out a component in language and literacy that could be incorporated into the literature major as one of the upper division "specializations" envisioned in the outline submitted by Comparative Humanities.
- ...We recommend the Office of Academic Affairs review all of the documents and then assign the responsibility for the preparation of a new pre-proposal to be submitted to CAP.

cc: Faculty Council



Old Westbury

Office of Academic Affairs
(516) 876-3135

DATE: May 8, 1992
TO: Dr. Evelyn Garrity, Chair C.A.P.
FROM: Kenneth O. Hall, Vice President for Academic Affairs *K. Hall*
SUBJ: DEVELOPMENT OF ENGLISH OR LITERATURE MAJOR

I am responding to your 4/15/92 and 4/24/92 memoranda regarding the development of an "English" or "Literature" major.

I must admit to some confusion about the recommendation that the Office of Academic Affairs "assign responsibility for the preparation of a new preproposal to be submitted to C.A.P," in light of the two recommendations for Comparative Humanities and English Language Studies.

At a mutually convenient time, I will be happy to discuss the matter with C.A.P.

cc: Dr. L. Eudora Pettigrew
Dr. Hermine D. Lewis
Mr. Ronald J. Welton
C.A.P. Committee
Faculty Council

KOH/hpc



Old Westbury

Office of Academic Affairs
(516) 876-3135

DATE: February 8, 1993

TO: Dr. Evelyn Garrity, Chairperson, CAP

FROM: Kenneth O. Hall, Vice President for Academic Affairs

SUBJ: New Registered Degree Programs

Attached for your information are copies of the most recent approved program proposals:

Language and Literature
Media and Communications
Health and Society

Although we have not received formal approval notice, we understand Health and Society has been approved. We expect to receive formal notice in the future. Health and Society was originally Community Health, and at the recommendation of the State Education Department and SUNY Central, the title was changed to Health and Society, although, the content remains the same.

Thank you.

c: Dr. Hermine Lewis
Mr. Ronald Welton
CAP Committee

KOH:vb
Attach