

College for Seniors

Curriculum Committee Minutes

March 20, 2008

Excused: Anita Beal, Don Lambert

1. Co-Chair Sam Wormley called the meeting to order at 1:35 PM in the Gold Room at the Iowa State University Foundation. The minutes of the February meeting were read and approved.
2. Jan Breitman gave an update on Spring semester enrollments, totaling 626. Of these, 106 signed up for the bus trip to Vedic City, 75 are in courses offered in Des Moines, and 39 are in the computer courses. The course entitled "Fruits of the Vine" was cancelled because only 5 people had enrolled. There were "quite a few" refunds made for filled/closed classes. The comment was made that offering more courses in Des Moines might help keep enrollment figures higher, since Ames-based numbers seem static or declining.
3. On another matter, Breitman wants to apply for an Osher Foundation grant made to similar programs in Missouri, Minnesota, Nebraska-Lincoln, Kansas, and Iowa City. This would support the College for Seniors with \$100,000 for 2-3 years, possibly increasing to \$1 million later. The requirements are 1) to become a membership-based instead of tuition-based program, 2) to maintain a membership of at least 500, and 3) to change the name from the College for Seniors to "Osher Life-Long Learning Institute at Iowa State University". Breitman has contacted the above-mentioned programs and found that they are all satisfied with this arrangement.

The application is due in May, which might be too little time to have a professional grant writer prepare the documentation. Another round occurs in the Fall. Jorgen Rasmussen pointed out that the College for Seniors Board as well as the University's legal office would need to be informed of the process.
4. JoAnn Brown referred to a memo of understanding to design a course about using the Internet. She has had exploratory talks with an instructor in the Instructional Design department who supervises graduate students in designing such a course. They have produced outlines for 4 class sessions about Internet use. Brown will review these before the Fall catalog deadline.
5. Barbara Matthies showed a form that a program in Oregon includes in its mailings for the

purpose of soliciting donations from members in honor/memory of someone. Breitman will review this form for possible inclusion in CFS catalogs.

6. Sam Wormley conducted a review of scheduling for Fall 2008 courses, as follows:

- F08-1: Great Decisions—Monday 3-4:30. Jan and George Beran will moderate, using the same materials as this Spring. It was noted that Doug Finnemore, now using those materials, could conduct the course in Fall; however, the Berans are willing and available.
- F08-2: US Presidential Campaigns—Tuesday 3-4:30. Alvie Young is still looking for presenters for some sessions.
- F08-3: Global Warming—Monday 11-12:30. Carol Phillips still needs to schedule some of the speakers. She suggests the course “Going Green” as a good followup for the Winter 2009 session.
- F08-4 & 5: Digital Photography—Tuesday 9-10:30. The first 4 weeks will be a beginning-level course, and the last 4 weeks will be advanced SLR photography.
- F08-6: Copernicus to the Big Bang—Wednesday 1-2:30. (Note time and day change.)
- F08-7: German Language and Culture—Tuesday 11-12:30. If there is a small enrollment, this course could meet in the Alumni conference room as a conversation class.
- F08-8: Living Wills—Monday 8:30-10:30 for 3 weeks. (Note early start time.)
- F08-9: Calligraphy—Tuesday 6:30-8 PM at Northcrest for 6 weeks; limit of 15.
- F08-10: Antiques—Tuesday 1-2:30.
- F08-11: Broadway Musicals—Monday 1-2:30.
- F08-12: ISU Athletics History—Monday 9-10:30 for 5 weeks, following the 3-week course F08-8.
- F08-13: Charles Darwin—Wednesday 3-4:30 at the ISU Foundation.
- Bridge—MWF 6:30-8:30 PM at Northcrest.
- 4-week computer courses—to be scheduled at the ISU Foundation.

7. Bill LaGrange suggested three courses for Spring 2009:

- Keith Carlson on Mark Twain
- Harry Seidel on Ames' water supply
- Harry Campbell on books and literature

8. Jan Breitman suggested more tours of industry for Fall 2008. Alvie Young will look into this. The "Fruit of the Vine" course cancelled for Spring might be offered in Fall 2008 at Green Hills. Breitman will ask about this.

9. Marti Jorgensen suggested an investment course for Winter 2009, emphasizing basic terminology and concepts for investors. A course on the Middle East by Don Lambert was suggested for Spring 2009.

10. Upcoming dates:

- Fall semester dates: September 15 – November 4
- Fall catalog deadline: May 15
- Next Curriculum Committee meeting: April 17, 1:30 PM, ISU Foundation Gold Room

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Matthies