

NTC Faculty Meeting Minutes
March 22, 2017

Dean MacLaren opened the meeting with a discussion of several changes made to the Constitution of the NTC Faculty. The following are a **FIRST READING** and no action is required at this meeting:

1. A proposal has been introduced to extend the voting membership in the NTC Faculty meeting body, to full-time Professors of Practice (PoPs) and Administrative Faculty. The School of Science and Engineering already extends voting rights to PoPs on curriculum matters, and since a majority of NTC Faculty votes deal directly with the undergraduate curriculum, including PoPs could be beneficial and appropriate. Professors of Practice and Administrative Faculty already serve on NTC sub-committees.
2. The NTC Faculty meeting quorum will be raised from 25 to 40. This is at the request of some present at the previous (Fall 2016) meeting. The new quorum also takes into account the Professors of Practice and Administrative Faculty who would now attend Faculty Meetings in order to participate in voting practices.
3. Added to the Constitution would be the ruling that “a majority of voting members present at a Faculty Meeting may authorize an electronic vote.”
4. The Committee on Academic Requirements has proposed the addition of a non-voting member to represent Academic Advising. This individual would inform the committee of student petitions and other ways in which students pursue required courses set by the committee.
5. A new Committee on Major Advising has been proposed. This body would work with Academic Advising to inform/guide Major Advising. The committee would investigate ways to synchronize record-keeping between Advising and major departments, as well as work to improve the consistency of available information from major to major.

Next, Dean MacLaren introduced a **MOTION** to continue the framework by which NTC students are given access to majors and courses offered by the School of Continuing Studies. This proposal follows a very positive trial of said framework, and is the recommendation of the NTC Curriculum Committee. The SCS did not receive funds from NTC tuition revenue during this trial period, however, a revised budget in the coming year could reallocate some of that revenue, should the crossover continue.

This motion was **APPROVED**.

The ad hoc committee to hire a consultant to evaluate and restructure the Public Service Requirement produced an RFP that was shared for feedback at this meeting. The document is “designed to facilitate/identify people who are qualified to come in and give feedback on the 2-tier, mandatory service learning requirement.” In effect, this document opens a focused dialog about the requirement, which has been discussed at length in previous meetings.

An agenda item regarding a proposed certificate program in Gender and Sexual Violence was tabled due to unresolved questions surrounding accreditation.

Dean MacLaren then turned the floor over to Judie Maxwell, from the NTC Curriculum Committee.

With the new general education requirements approved, the Curriculum Committee has been reviewing departmental submissions of lists of courses that would satisfy the amended categories. Departments that have yet to submit these course lists were strongly encouraged to do so as soon as possible – the Registrar’s Office will need time to program all of the changes to the course catalog before the Fall 2018 Term.

Judie Maxwell then informed the Faculty of some confusion regarding the new General Education requirement titled “Diversity and Inclusion.” The Presidential Commission on Race and Inclusion pointed out that this requirement was intended to require “one course on *race* and inclusion in the U.S.” to more directly confront the deficit of race-analysis they’ve been charged with addressing. Until that conversation, the Curriculum Committee had been approving courses involving “diversity” in aspects other than race (i.e. gender studies). However, the descriptive text of the requirement in the curriculum approved by the faculty does specify “one course on race and inclusion in the U.S.”

A **MOTION** was introduced to change the title of this requirement to “Race and inclusion in the U.S.,” requiring students to take a course in which at least 60% of the coursework pertains to race in the U.S. The language of the requirement recommends completion by the close of sophomore year. A brief discussion preceded the vote:

- Approximately 99 existing courses would qualify to satisfy the requirement, with “race” being the imperative. (According to a recent course inventory).
- The Commission on Race and Inclusivity provided the figure of 60% of coursework having to deal with race to the Curriculum Committee as a guideline. The Commission’s list of such guidelines could be provided to departments as they prepare to submit lists of courses that satisfy the requirement.
- One concern among the faculty was whether or not it was realistic to compile a list of satisfactory courses by the effective semester (Fall 2018). However, with existing courses able to fulfill the requirement, changing the requirement to specifically race is still an achievable goal.
- Another concern, not related to the language of the requirement, was that requiring one such course by the end of sophomore year might limit the amount of major-related courses a student can take in their first two years. This could negatively affect students in BFA programs, with heavier per-semester course loads. It was pointed out that the language of the

- requirement recommends but does not require completion by the end of sophomore year.
- One member questioned whether 60% might be too high a threshold for race-related coursework. When a department is unable to incorporate that figure into their offerings, does an undue burden fall on other departments? The reality is that not all departments will have to/be able to offer courses fitting this description, but the burden falls to the student to seek out and take the requirement-satisfying courses. The suggested 60% figure “ensures that students are developing a racial analysis” through the duration of a course.

The motion to edit the requirement’s title to align with the descriptive text and read “Race and inclusion,” as opposed to “Diversity and inclusion,” was **APPROVED**. Some courses that were previously approved under this requirement will need to be reevaluated or resubmitted.

END OF MEETING

Respectfully submitted,
Erin Cessna
Administrative Secretary
Newcomb-Tulane College