

May Experience Subcommittee Meeting  
May 2, 2007  
Minutes

Present: Haney, Cass (Recorder), Daniels, Gabbert, Batson (Chair), Armstrong

1. The minutes from the April 11, 2007 meeting were approved.
2. The committee reviewed, edited, and approved the “Proposed May Experience Questions” for the course proposal form. The Chair will submit the form questions to Steering for review.
3. The committee briefly discussed the topic of Study Away. The committee believes that without some form of subsidy, May Experience travel study programs will fail.
4. The committee discussed policy matters, including the creation of new policies and the revision of existing policies to include reference to May Experience.
5. The committee discussed a general plan for the coming months, including:
  - a. drafting and revising policies;
  - b. administering student and faculty surveys;
  - c. holding open forums for interested faculty;
  - d. and, establishing a timeline for the solicitation, submission, and review of May Experience proposals.
6. The committee will present the following recommendations to Steering at its next (May 7) meeting:

1. The CRC document says

“The May Experience would be included in a student’s comprehensive tuition cost and would count toward the faculty member’s regular teaching load. Teaching two two-credit May Experience courses in successive years would earn one four-credit course reduction during the fall or spring semester.” (p. 23)

We believe these statements need to be reexamined by the faculty, and we recommend that other forms of compensation should be included for teaching in May. Specifically, we recommend that May teachers have the option of receiving overload pay instead of a future course reduction. We are concerned that, if a large number of faculty want to participate in May, Chairs may not permit all to do so because of the burden that would be placed on future regular fall and spring term schedules. Financial compensation, as an option in addition to course reduction, may increase faculty interest in teaching in May, and would

reduce the conflict Chairs may experience when trying to balance courses to be offered in May and “regular” classes that must be taught in fall and spring.

2. The Subcommittee is concerned that no minimum has been specified for the number of students that must be enrolled in a May course in order for the course to run. We would like this point clarified, but also recommend that there be no minimum enrollment for May courses in the first year or two of the new calendar.
3. In initial polling of departments for interest in participating in May, we detected significant interest in offering courses with a Study-Away component. We recommend that there be some subsidy for May Study-Away courses to make it possible for more, especially financially needy, students to participate, as is done for fall and spring Study-Away programs. We believe that without subsidizing May Study-Away courses, the May Experience will not be successful.
4. We recommend the formation of an ad hoc committee that would operate before and during the first 1-2 years of the new calendar for the purpose of developing the May Experience fully. The committee would be charged with reviewing course proposals before they are forwarded to Curriculum/APC, and with making sure that the May Experience program is successful. The committee might (1) hold forums or arrange for information sessions to assist faculty in planning courses, (2) work in the Advising system to make the May Experience appealing to students, and (3) generally serve as an advocate for the May Experience.