Arts and Sciences (LA & J) Curricula Committee
Annual Report 2004-2005 Academic Year

The A&S Curricula Committee had a busy year. We reviewed and brought to the faculty 65 proposals from departments and programs regarding new courses and changes in courses, majors, minors, and programs. We also took care of the normal business of reviewing Plan of Study proposals from students in addition to overhauling the Plan of Study application procedure. An Excel spreadsheet summary of our course/program activities is included in a separate document that shows the details of our work on faculty proposals this year.

This year new courses were reviewed by the committee and brought before the faculty for vote from the following subject areas: American Studies (3), Anthropology (5), Arabic (2), Child development (4), Community Health (1), Comparative Religion (1), History (4), Judaic Studies (1), Mathematics (2), Music (5), Political Science (3), and Psychology (3). In addition we reviewed minor changes in course numbers, titles, and descriptions, as well as deletions of courses no longer taught, some of which required faculty vote, in many subject areas. Some of the minor course numbering changes and deletions were in preparation for the new Degree Audit Reporting System (DARS).

The committee reviewed and brought before the faculty the revision of the major in Mathematics and the minor in Philosophy. A new certificate program in “Ethics, Law, and Society” in the Philosophy Department was presented to the faculty for vote and will be implemented for graduation in May 2005.

The committee’s handling of Plan of Study proposals by students has become more efficient with the advent of electronic submissions and a revision of the application process and rules. The committee is strictly enforcing deadlines and rules that had become relaxed in previous years. The program has been stabilized. This past fall we reviewed and accepted two Plans of Study and are presently expecting the submittal of two proposals near the end of the spring semester. Faculty members responsible for Plan of Study reviews so far this year are identified in the committee member list below.

Over the past year the Curricula Committee has found ways to operate more efficiently by revamping the review process and relying more on electronic dissemination of materials for review by committee members. Improved communication between the Curricula Committee and the ARB (Academic Review Board) has also expedited the review process. As a result we have not had to meet as frequently and our submission of agenda items for faculty meetings has become earlier than in previous years. We would also like to thank the faculty for not saving proposals to the end of each semester. One person who deserves our thanks this year, as in all previous years, is Catherine Doheney, Secretary of the Faculty, who has greatly facilitated our communication with the faculty and deserves our recognition for her work and cooperation.

On Behalf of the Committee,
Jack Ridge (Geology) Chair

A&S Curricula Committee Membership:

Anselm Blumer Computer Science
Francie Chew Biology
David Feldman Child Dev.
Catherine Freudenberg Biology
Gerald Gill History
Judith Haber (PoS subcom.) English
Deborah Pacini-Hernandez Soc./Anth.
Brigitte Lane Rom. Lang.
Sharun Mukand Economics
Peter Reid (PoS subcom.) Classics
Joel Rosenberg (PoS subcom.) Ger/Rus/Asian

Support Staff: Catherine Doheney, Secretary of the Faculty

Note: the spreadsheet listing all activity for the Curricula Committee in the academic year 2004-05 can be found online at http://ase.tufts.edu/faculty-info as an attachment for the AS&E faculty meeting on May 18, 2005.