The A&S Curricula Committee had an extremely busy year. We reviewed and brought to the faculty over 270 course proposals (as compared to 65 last year) from departments and programs proposing new courses and changes in courses and programs. An Excel spreadsheet summary of our course/program activities is included in a separate document that shows 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: Anthropology (2), Archaeology (1), Biology (1), Classics (9), Comparative Religion (4), Dance (3), Drama (25), Economics (8), English (41), Fine Arts History (9), Geology (2), German (1), Greek (1), History (27), Latin (1), Mathematics (2), Political Science (5), Psychology, and Sociology (3). In addition we reviewed many 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. Many of the new course proposals were to formalize courses already being taught as special topics. These new courses as well as many changes and deletions were largely to facilitate compliance with the new Degree Audit Reporting System (DARS) that will be instituted next year. For many departments this adjustment became a time to reorganize their course numbers and revamp the listing of their courses in the Bulletin. Beginning in the Fall, 2006 the online Bulletin should depict a much more accurate and complete listing of course offerings at Tufts than in previous years.

The committee reviewed and brought before the faculty the revision of the majors in Anthropology, Architectural Studies, and Sociology. Revision of the International Relations major will be brought before the faculty at the May 10 A&S Faculty meeting.

The committee reviewed six new Plan of Study proposals from students and tightened rules for Plan of Study applications. Prof. Frances Chew has served as deputy chair in charge of Plan of Study reviews and oversight of the program. The committee’s handling of Plan of Study proposals by students has become more efficient and less compressed into the last weeks of the spring semester by requiring students to submit proposals at least four weeks before the end of their sophomore year. By adjusting the deadline the committee is trying to complete reviews before the end of the school year and not let them lapse into the summer. The committee is strictly enforcing the deadline and students are now required to submit a petition to the Dean of Students before submitting late proposals.

Over the past years the Curricula Committee has found ways to operate more efficiently by revamping the review process and we increasingly rely on electronic dissemination of materials for review by committee members. Because of the enormous number of proposals we reviewed this year, having meetings to cover every agenda item was impossible and we have conducted much of our review by Email. As a result we have not had to meet as frequently as in the past even though we have been much busier. We are currently in the planning and construction stages of revamping the process by which faculty submit requests. If everything goes according to plan this system will be computerized and will automatically generate the agenda for our meetings and for faculty review beginning in the Fall 2006 semester. Along with the online submission forms will be information on how to accomplish curricular changes of various types through the Curricula Committee.

We would like to thank the faculty for not saving proposals to the end of the spring semester. One person who deserves our thanks this year, as in all previous years, is Catherine Doheney, Secretary of the Faculty, who greatly facilitates our work and deserves recognition for her support and cooperation.
On Behalf of the Committee,  
Jack Ridge (Geology) Chair  

A&S Curricula Committee Membership:

Anselm Blumer (Assoc. Prof.) Comp. Sci. (04-09)
Francie Chew, Deputy chair (Prof.) Bio/Amer. Std. (03-08)
Catherine Freudenreich (Asst. Prof.) Biology (01-06)
Gerald Gill (Assoc. Prof.) History (02-07)
Judith Haber (Assoc. Prof.) English (04-09)
Sharun Mukand (Asst. Prof.) Economics (02-07) On Leave
Deborah Pacini-Hernandez (Assoc. Prof.) Soc./Anth. (03-08) On Leave
Joel Rosenberg (Assoc. Prof.) Ger/Rus/Asian (01-06)
Yaacov Shapira (Prof.) Phys./Astron. (05-10) On Leave Spr 06
Rosemary Taylor (Assoc. Prof.) Soc/Com Hlth (01-06)
Alice Trexler (Assoc. Prof.) Drama/Dance (03-08)
Arthur Utz (Assoc. Prof.) Chemistry (02-07)

Ex-officio Members:
Jeanne Dillon Assoc. Dean/Academic Services
Laura Walters Head of Ref and Collections, Tisch Library (02-07)

Student Members:
Brody Hale – undergraduate student appointed by TCU Senate
Michael Eddy – undergraduate student appointed by TCU Senate
David Proctor (Classics) – graduate student

Support Staff:  Catherine Doheney, Secretary of the Faculty