MEMORANDUM

TO: James F. Harris
   Dean, College of Arts & Humanities

FROM: Phyllis Peres
       Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs

SUBJECT: Proposal to Modify the curriculum in the Philosophy CPaS Ph.D. track (PCC Log No. 05010)

At its meeting on December 16, 2005, the Senate Committee on Programs, Curricula, and Courses approved your proposal to modify the curriculum of the Committee for Philosophy and the Sciences (CpaS) Ph.D. specialization. A copy of the approved and amended proposal is enclosed.

The changes are effective in Spring 2006. The College should ensure that the new requirements are fully described in the Graduate Catalog and in all relevant descriptive materials, and that all advisors are informed.

PP: cwr
Enclosure

cc: James Baeder, Chair, Senate PCC
    Sarah Bauder, Student Financial Aid
    Mary Giles, University Senate
    Barbara Hope, Data Administration
    Gay Gullickson, Graduate School
    Anne Turkos, Archives
    Linda Yokoi, Records & Registrations
    Charles Rutherford, College of Arts & Humanities
    Elizabeth Loizeaux, College of Arts & Humanities
    Jeffrey Bub, Department of Philosophy
DATE SUBMITTED: May 5, 2005

COLLEGE/SCHOOL: ARHU

DEPARTMENT/PROGRAM: Philosophy/Committee for Philosophy and the Sciences (CPaS) Graduate Specialization

PROPOSED ACTION (A separate form for each) ADD______ DELETE______ CHANGE______

DESCRIPTION (Provide a succinct account of the proposed action. Details should be provided in an attachment. Provide old and new sample programs for curriculum changes.)

- For both the MA and PhD programs (philosophy of science track and cognitive studies track), we propose to change the clause stating: 'The other X courses must be graduate or upper-level undergraduate courses.' to: 'The presumption is that the other X courses will be graduate or upper-level undergraduate courses as well, but substitutions, including courses from other departments, are allowed with permission of the Graduate Director.' (In the case of the PhD program, X = 5; in the case of the MA program, X = 2.)

- For the MA and PhD programs (philosophy of science track only), we propose to delete the requirement that one of the seminar courses must be PHIL 859 (the philosophy of science proseminar). The total number of required seminar courses remains the same.

JUSTIFICATION/REASONS/RESOURCES (Briefly explain the reason for the proposed action. Identify the source of new resources that may be required. Details should be provided in an attachment.)

The current rules of the regular Philosophy graduate program (MA and PhD) allow course substitutions. We feel that graduate students taking the CPaS specialization should be allowed the same flexibility. For similar reasons, the Department proposes to drop the requirement that one of the seminars must be the philosophy of science proseminar (PHIL 859) and allow students the flexibility to take any approved seminar instead.

APPROVAL SIGNATURES

1. Department Committee Chair

2. Department Chair

3. College/School PCC Chair

4. Dean

5. Dean of the Graduate School (if required)

6. Chair, Senate PCC

7. Chair of Senate

8. Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost

DATE

May 5, 2005

5/10/05

9/28/05

9/28/05

12/16/05

12/16/05

12/16/05
PROPOSAL FOR CURRICULUM MODIFICATION TO CURRENT PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE/COGNITIVE STUDIES GRADUATE SPECIALIZATION IN PHILOSOPHY

The Philosophy Department is requesting approval of some minor curricular changes to the current philosophy of science/cognitive studies graduate specialization currently overseen by the Committee for Philosophy and the Science (CPaS).

There are two separate tracks within the CPaS specialization, with different course requirements: a philosophy of science track and a cognitive studies track.

The proposal is to allow students additional flexibility in the choice of courses in both the MA and PhD programs by allowing course substitutions (including relevant science courses), with the approval of the Advisor and the Graduate Director.

Specifically:

• For both the MA and PhD programs (philosophy of science track and cognitive studies track), we propose to change the clause stating:

‘The other X courses must be graduate or upper-level undergraduate courses.’

To:

‘The presumption is that the other X courses also will be graduate or 400-level undergraduate courses in Philosophy, but substitutions of courses from other departments are allowed with permission of the Advisor and the Graduate Director.’

In the case of the PhD program, X = 5; in the case of the MA program, X = 2.

• For the MA and PhD programs (philosophy of science track only), we propose to delete the requirement that one of the seminar courses must be PHIL 859 (the philosophy of science proseminar). The total number of required seminar courses remains the same.
The changes occur in section 3 (specifically, 3.1.1) and in section 4 (specifically, 4.1.1) of the CPaS ‘Rules and Policies for Graduate Study.’ The relevant passages are indicated below. The current wording to be deleted is indicated in bold italics and placed in square brackets. The proposed new replacement wording (if any) is underlined and occurs immediately after the bracketed sentence.

3. The PhD Program

3.1 Basic Requirements

3.1.1 Course Requirement
In order to satisfy the course requirement, a student must complete twelve courses, of which three must be ‘core’ courses and at least four others 800-level graduate seminars. Graduate seminars typically require a substantial research paper and may require a class presentation. [The other five courses must be graduate or upper-level undergraduate courses.] The presumption is that the other five courses also will be graduate or 400-level undergraduate courses in Philosophy, but substitutions of courses from other departments are allowed with permission of the Advisor and the Graduate Director.

…

Philosophy of Science Track:

Each student must complete the following courses:

- three core courses: metaphysics, mind, and language; value theory; philosophy of science
- one additional non-core philosophy course outside the area of philosophy of science
- three courses in philosophy of science or philosophy of the special sciences (other than the core course in philosophy of science)[, one of which must be the philosophy of science proseminar (PHIL 859)]
- two graduate courses in a science corresponding to the area of dissertation research, subject to approval
- one graduate course in the history of science or technology
- either PHIL 470 (Logical Theory I), which satisfies the logic requirement (see below), or one elective graduate or upper-level undergraduate course, subject to approval
- one directed study course concluding with a substantial research paper (normally, but not necessarily, a precursor to the preparation of the thesis prospectus)
4. The MA Program

4.1 Basic Requirements

4.1.1 Course Requirement

In order to satisfy the course requirement, a student must complete eight courses, of which three must be ‘core’ courses and at least three others 800-level graduate seminars. Graduate seminars typically require a substantial research paper and may require a class presentation. [The other two courses must be graduate or upper-level undergraduate courses.] The presumption is that the other two courses also will be graduate or 400-level undergraduate courses in Philosophy, but substitutions of courses from other departments are allowed with permission of the Advisor and the Graduate Director. …

Philosophy of Science Track:

Each student must complete the following courses:

- three core courses: metaphysics, mind, and language; value theory; philosophy of science
- one additional non-core philosophy course outside the area of philosophy of science
- three courses in philosophy of science or philosophy of the special sciences (other than the core course in philosophy of science), one of which must be the philosophy of science proseminar (PHIL 859)
- one graduate course in the history of science or technology
RATIONALE FOR THE CHANGES

The current rules of the regular Philosophy graduate program (MA and PhD) allow course substitutions. The relevant sentence (in bold and italicized) in the case of the PhD program reads as follows (page 1 of the ‘Handbook of Rules and Policies for Graduate Study’):

In order to satisfy the Course Requirement, each student must complete twelve three-hour courses, or a total of thirty-six hours of course work. As detailed below, three of these courses must be core courses, and five others must be graduate seminars offered by the Department. The presumption is that the other four courses will be graduate or upper-level undergraduate courses as well, but substitutions, including courses from other departments, are allowed with permission of the Graduate Director.

The wording for the MA program is identical.

We feel that graduate students taking the CPaS specialization should be allowed the same flexibility. Proposed substitutions will be evaluated by the Graduate Director and approved only if the substitution is judged to be reasonable in terms of the student’s program of studies. There is no change in the total number of required courses or the total number of required seminars.

For similar reasons, the Department proposes to drop the requirement, for the philosophy of science track, that one of the seminars must be the philosophy of science proseminar (PHIL 859) and allow students the flexibility to take any approved seminar instead. One of the ‘core’ courses – required courses for all philosophy graduate students – is philosophy of science, and under the proposed curriculum changes the philosophy of science specialization still requires students to take an additional three philosophy of science courses. The Department feels that this requirement is sufficient and does not intend to offer PHIL 859 on a regular basis.

Note that we are not proposing to drop the requirement, for the cognitive studies track, that one of the seminars must be the cognitive science proseminar (PHIL 878). In the case of the cognitive studies track, there is no ‘core’ cognitive studies course requirement and the primary purpose of the cognitive studies proseminar is to provide a cohesive experience for all cognitive studies students.

Both these changes will make it easier for students to progress through the program year by year, by removing certain constraints.
LIST OF COURSES DELETED FROM PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

PHIL 858 (philosophy of science proseminar)