

Minutes
Liberal Studies Committee
November 30-December 7, 2015

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I. Writing

Type II Departmental Commitment

Physics

15-85 PHYS 331 Modern Physics

Motion to Approve as a Type II Departmental Commitment course– Passed:
Unanimous

II. Course Revisions/Proposals P

Educational and School Psychology

15-84 EDSP 102 Educational Psychology

Motion to Not Approve as a LS Social Science course– Passed: Unanimous

Comments:

1. The course will still be part of the Teacher Education Professional Core which seems to go against the grain of what we envision LS courses to be.

2. I am coming to this discussion on the proposal to count EDSP 102 as a Social Science elective a bit late. Our college has been fighting this approach for many years now, and I know all the chairs in my college are opposed to it.

Their central concern is that an LS social science course should offer the student empirical methodology and a theoretical framework from a social science discipline, and apply these to (help) explain social behavior. The observation among my chairs is that EDSP 102, as its course description promises, "promotes an understanding of the principles of psychology governing human behavior, with particular emphasis on the relation to the learner, learning process, and learning situation in an educational environment." From that standpoint, the focus of the course is too narrow (and too applied) to make it eligible as an LS social science elective, because it fails to offer said

methodology and theoretical framework that has been distilled from centuries of the evolution of the discipline. Even if the department were successful in widening the course objectives and included methodological and theoretical approaches (and the history of ideas in the discipline) that would help us approve the course, then I would argue that there would not be much difference between EDSP 102 and PSYC 101, in which case the department should seek to make these two substitutes of each other, since the LS rules do not permit more than one prefix among the three that our IUP students have to select to meet their LS requirements. All the social science departments, including Psychology and Criminology (which are outside of CHSS), to the best that I can determine, have also opposed this approach in previous attempts for basically this reason.