

Fri 1/15/2016 4:23 PM - David Guston

Rick

Thanks to you and to the committee for this response.

With respect to POS 486 and FIS 308, I find it hard to see a one-third overlap since there is really only one week of FIS 308 on international issues. It would be helpful if the committee actually pointed to the overlapping material.

Indeed, rearticulating that things "overlap" or "duplicate" is not helpfully responsive to the request in my earlier email for the committee, which has our syllabi, to further specify what the precise duplications are so that we might adjust if necessary and appropriate the content of our proposed classes.

To object to FIS 337 by arguing that if "innovation" were dropped from its title it would be the same as POS 367 is akin to objecting, say, to the teaching of a course on African-American political movements by saying that if you took away "African-American" it would duplicate a course on political movements. If you take away the word, the concept, that is core to the approach of the class, of course it will look like an overlap with something else. Again, it would be helpful if the committee specified **what content in POS 367** — which was not actually mentioned by the committee in its first response to our request — actually overlaps with FIS 337. Is there actual reading materials that are duplicated? Similar coverage of cases?

Finally, with respect to Professor Berliner's POS 394, I am more than happy to be on record as taking the consistent position that there is no overlap between the two courses and to welcome Professor Berliner's course as one that easily contribute as an elective for our undergraduate students.

In the same way that sustainability as a concept is not meant to be the exclusive domain of the School of Sustainability — there are courses reflecting on sustainability across the university — SFIS recognizes that studies of science, technology and innovation will not be exclusive to its domain. But studies of science, technology and innovation are the central organizing theme of the school, its majors, and its courses, and if there is actual attention to these topics in the courses with which proposed FIS courses are alleged to overlap, it would be of great help to have the committee specify that attention by pointing to readings, assignments or discussions in the course syllabi.

Thanks.

Dave

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