3-21-2005

Philosophy Logic Substitution Proposal

The College at Brockport, College Senate

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/senate_resolutions

Part of the Higher Education Commons

Repository Citation
https://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/senate_resolutions/1210

This Resolution is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons @Brockport. It has been accepted for inclusion in College Senate Resolutions by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @Brockport. For more information, please contact kmyers@brockport.edu, digitalcommons@brockport.edu.
SUNY BROCKPORT
College Senate
State University of New York
College at Brockport
350 New Campus Drive
Brockport, NY 14420-5925
(585) 395-2586 (Fax) 395-2246

RESOLUTION # 08
2004-2005
COLLEGE SENATE

TO: Dr. John B. Clark, Interim College President
FROM: The Faculty Senate Meeting on: March 21, 2005
RE: I. Formal Resolution (Act of Determination)
II. Recommendation (Voting the Fitness of)
III. Other, For Your Information (Notice, Request, Report, etc.)

SUBJ: Philosophy Logic Substitution Proposal
Signed: Dawn M. Jones Date: 4/4/05

(As Dawn M. Jones, 2004-2005 College Senate President)

Please fill out the bottom portion and return document to the College Senate Office.

TO: The College Senate
FROM: Dr. John B. Clark, Interim College President
RE: I. Decision and Action Taken on Formal Resolution (circle)
   a. Accepted. Effective Date: 
   b. Deferred for discussion with the Faculty Senate on 
   c. Unacceptable for the reasons contained in the attached explanation

II. III. Response to Recommendation or Other/PFY
   a. Received and acknowledged 4/14/05
   b. Comment:

DISTRIBUTED BY PRESIDENT'S OFFICE TO: Executive Council
DISTRIBUTED BY PROVOST’S OFFICE TO: Dean’s Council
DISTRIBUTED ALSO TO: Originator, Academic Advisement, Registrar (as appropriate)

Signed: Dr. John B. Clark, Interim College President, SUNY College at Brockport
Date: 4/14/05
RESOLUTION PROPOSAL COVER PAGE

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: FEBRUARY 23 - Proposals received after the deadline may not be reviewed until next semester.

Submit all proposals to the College Senate President electronically or on a disk with a hard copy.
Please provide cover page information requested.
facprez@brockport.edu, fsenate@brockport.edu
College Senate Office, 426 Allen Building

1. PROPOSAL TITLE:
Please be somewhat descriptive, for example, Graduate Probation/Dismissal Proposal rather than Graduate Proposal.
substitution of PHL205: Modern Logic for PHL202: Logic in the Philosophy Major.

2. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL:
PHL202 now serves two different purposes that do not fit together well; we propose to address these two purposes in two different courses.

3. SUBMISSION & REVISION DATES: PLEASE DATE ALL UPDATED DOCUMENTS and resubmit to the Senate Office electronically prior to Senate review and vote at fsenate@brockport.edu.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Submission</th>
<th>Updated on</th>
<th>Updated on</th>
<th>Updated on</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2/23/05</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. SUBMITTED BY: (contact person)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Georges Dicker</td>
<td>Philosophy</td>
<td>x2544</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gdicker@brockport.edu">gdicker@brockport.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. COMMITTEES TO COPY: (Senate office use only)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standing Committee</th>
<th>Forwarded To</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enrollment Planning &amp; Policies</td>
<td>Committee Chair</td>
<td>2/23/05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty &amp; Professional Staff Policies</td>
<td>Executive Committee</td>
<td>3/7/05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education &amp; Curriculum Policies</td>
<td>Senate Floor</td>
<td>3/21/05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Curriculum &amp; Policies</td>
<td>College President</td>
<td>4/4/05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Policies</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>x</em> Undergraduate Curriculum &amp; Policies</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*(ROUTING NUMBER WILL BE A CHRONOLOGICAL NUMBER SEQUENCE FOLLOWED BY COMMITTEE INITIALS)*
PROPOSAL TO SUBSTITUTE PHL 205: MODERN LOGIC FOR PHL 202: LOGIC IN THE PHILOSOPHY MAJOR

I. COMPARISON OF EXISTING AND REVISED MAJOR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>existing major program</th>
<th>credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PHL 101: Introduction to Philosophy</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHL 102: Introduction to Ethics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHL 202: Logic</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHL 304: Ancient Philosophy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHL 305: History of Modern Philosophy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHL 396: Seminar on Philosophical Problems or</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHL: 491: Seminar on Individual Philosophers plus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>four 3-credit philosophy courses, at least one of them at the</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>upper-division</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>electives</strong></td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>revised major program</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PHL 101: Introduction to Philosophy</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHL 102: Introduction to Ethics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHL 205: Modern Logic</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHL 304: Ancient Philosophy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHL 305: History of Modern Philosophy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHL 396: Seminar on Philosophical Problems or</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHL: 491: Seminar on Individual Philosophers plus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>four 3-credit philosophy courses, at least one of them at the</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>upper-division</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>electives</strong></td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

II. RATIONALE FOR CHANGE

Our present introductory logic course, PHL 202, attempt to fulfill two different purposes that, as we have come to see, do not fit together very well. On the one hand, it is the only logic course that our majors are required to take (though we advise those of our majors who want to go on to graduate work in philosophy to follow it up with PHL 322: Intermediate Logic). On the other hand, it is a breadth component Humanities course addressed to general students. In order to fulfill the first purpose, the course needs to focus on modern deductive logic, in which formal methods for constructing and evaluating arguments are the centerpiece. The students learn to put arguments that are stated in a natural language (English) into the symbolic language of modern
propositional logic, after which techniques for proving or disproving their validity are learned and practiced. These techniques are quasi-mathematical, and the more basic ones must be mastered before the more powerful ones can be learned. They represent essential skills for pursuing philosophy as it is practiced today, especially in the Anglo-American philosophical community. In order to fulfill the second purpose, however, formal techniques for evaluating deductive arguments need not be pursued nearly as far, because students who are not philosophy majors are likely to find them rather remote from the reasoning skills that can serve them well in life, work, and civic engagement, and are not likely to find much use for formal techniques after they graduate. Instead, more emphasis can be placed on such topics as different uses of language, definition, detecting and avoiding logical fallacies, supplying missing premises, analogy and probable inference, causal reasoning, scientific reasoning and explanation, and alternative conceptions of probability.

Our proposal, then, is to separate these two different purposes by offering two different courses. The new PHL 205: Modern Logic course will be designed for majors, and we also expect it to enroll some computer science, natural science and math students. We do not plan to submit it as a breadth component course, so we will offer only one section of it each year. The PHL 202: Logic course will continue to be designed with the general student in mind, and we will continue to offer it in the breadth component.

III. DESCRIPTION OF NEW COURSE PHL205: MODERN LOGIC

Modern Logic. This course uses the mechanism of an artificial language to provide a systematic study of deductive reasoning. Students will learn to translate English sentences into an artificial language, and construct formal proofs of validity for deductive arguments. Covers classical sentential logic. Other topics that might be introduced include: predicate logic, identity, and modal logic.

I. Objectives

a. to introduce the concept of logical form, and the related concept of formal validity, and to explain the relationship between formal validity and sound deductive reasoning

b. to teach the method of symbolizing English language sentences and arguments in an artificial language as a means of identifying the logical form of these sentences and arguments

c. to teach students modern methods of determining whether a deductive inference is formally valid or invalid

II. Outline

A. Logical Form and Formal Validity

1. Statements, arguments, and patterns of thought
2. Logical and non-logical terms
3. Definition of formal validity
4. Formal validity and sound deductive reasoning

B. Symbolization: the Syntax of the Formal Language

1. Sentential connectives
2. Negation, conjunction, disjunction
3. Conditional, biconditional
4. Symbolizing arguments

C. Determining Validity in Sentential Logic

1. Simple truth tables
2. Truth evaluations
3. Complex truth tables
4. Truth assignment test

D. Proofs and Refutations in Sentential Logic

1. Examples
2. Simple Proofs
3. Simple Refutations
4. Harder Proofs
5. Harder Refutations
6. Indirect Proofs

Student Performance will be assessed by written examinations.