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UMM CURRICULUM COMMITTEE
2011-12 MEETING #12 Minutes
February 13, 2012, 12:00 p.m., BCR

Present: Bart Finzel (chair), Joe Alia, Bryce Blankenfeld, Carol Cook, Clare Dingley, Caitlin Drayna, Janet Ericksen, Hazen Fairbanks, Sara Haugen, Leslie Meek, Peh Ng, Paula O'Loughlin, Ian Patterson, Jeri Squier, Tisha Turk

Absent: Heather James, Gwen Rudney

Visiting: Nancy Helsper

In these minutes: Course Approvals; General Education Writing Requirement Proposal Discussion

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: (Cook/Ericksen) to approve the February 6, 2012 minutes. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote, with minor corrections.

2. COURSE APPROVALS

New Humanities Courses

ARTH 4810: Practicum in Art History Pedagogy (4 cr)

CMR 2431: International Communication Competence (IP; 2 cr) (same as LANG 2431)

ENGL 3167: Studies in Contemporary British and Anglophone Literature (HUM; 4 cr)

ENGL 3414: Feminist Theory (HDIV; 4 cr) (same as GWSS 3414)

ENGL 4033: Research Seminar: Ralph Ellison, Richard Wright, and J. Saunders Redding (HDIV; 4 cr)

FREN 3605: FRS: Le Cinema du Maghreb (IP; 4 cr)

LANG 2431: International Communication Competence (IP; 2 cr) (same as CMR 2431)

LAT 1001: Beginning Latin I (4 cr)

LAT 1002: Beginning Latin II (FL; 4 cr)

MUS 1071: Chamber Winds (ART/P; 1 cr) [course number was later changed to 1301]

MUS 1072: Brass Ensemble (ART/P; 1 cr) [course number was later changed to 1331]

MUS 1091: Chamber Choir (ART/P; 1 cr) [course number was later changed to 1321]

MUS 1801: Introduction to American Popular Music (IC; 4 cr) (same as MUS 1049)

Motion: (Ng/Ericksen) to approve the new Humanities courses.

Discussion: Ericksen stated that the new courses include many rotated topics courses. ARTH 4810 came about as a result of a discussion with the registrar regarding students taking directed studies but actually functioning as TAs. In this course, students will learn about teaching art history classes. It is designed for students particularly interested in grad school. The ARTH designator will be more helpful to get into grad schools than the HUM designator. This will be one of the elective credits for the major and minor.

CMR 2431 is part of the international student summer session. This is the only time it can be offered because a large number of the students are new international students, particularly students from the Shanghai University of Finance and Economics (SUFE). Current students as well as new international students are welcome to take the course. It is an elective in the CMR major. This course is equivalent to LANG 2431.

Dingley suggested that the course numbers of the music ensemble courses (MUS 1071, 1072, and 1091) be changed to the 13xx numbering series because Morris has a limit to the number of ensembles credits (8) that can count toward the 120 credits required for graduation. O'Loughlin asked if it affects financial aid if the courses don't count toward the 120 graduation credits. Dingley answered that it is only monitored in APAS as a degree requirement. Ericksen stated that she would like the music faculty to agree to the change, but the delay could prevent the courses from getting on the next Campus Assembly agenda.

Drayna asked if these credits would count as large ensemble credits, since the 13xx are large ensembles. These new courses are electives but the 13xx courses are required. Students will think they can just take these instead of participating in a large ensemble. Dingley replied that the requirement of 13xx courses is a licensure requirement, not a music requirement.

Helsper noted that MUS 1801 and 1049 have exactly the same title, but the ECAS form does not say that you cannot get credit for both. Ng stated that it should be made clear. Squier offered to make the change in ECAS.

Ericksen later stated that she found a clarification on the issue about 13xx courses. The Music Handbook says while 13xx are not required for the major, participation is generally expected. They are required for teaching licensure. That would mean that these could be moved to the 13xx range without causing confusion.

Amended Motion: (Ng/Ericksen) to approve the new Humanities courses, with the course numbers of 1071, 1072, 1091 changed to 13xx [Note: the numbers were later assigned as 1301, 1331, and 1321].

Vote: Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Revised Humanities Courses

- ASL 1001: Beginning Sign Language I (4 cr)
- ASL 1002: Beginning Sign Language II (FL; 4 cr)
- ENGL 1001: Fundamentals of Writing I (4 cr)
- ENGL 2022: Sports Literature and Writing (ART/P; 4 cr)
- ENGL 2501: Literary Studies (HUM; 4 cr)
- ENGL 3142: The Rise of the Novel (HUM; 4 cr)
- GWSS 3414: Feminist Theory (HDIV; 4 cr) (same as ENGL 3414)

MUS 1049: Introduction to American Popular Music (ART/P; 4 cr) (same as MUS 1801)
MUS 1070: Instrumental Chamber Ensemble (ART/P; 1 cr)
MUS 1080: Jazz Combo (ART/P; 1 cr)
MUS 1090: Vocal Chamber Ensemble (ART/P; 1 cr)
MUS 1101: Core Studies I: Music Theory I (M/SR; 4 cr)
MUS 1102: Core Studies I: Music Theory II (M/SR; 4 cr)
MUS 1300: UMM Symphonic Winds (ART/P; 1 cr)
MUS 1310: University Choir (ART/P; 1 cr)
MUS 1320: Concert Choir (ART/P; 1 cr)
MUS 1330: Jazz Ensemble (ART/P; 1 cr)
MUS 1340: Orchestra (ART/P; 1 cr)
MUS 1370: Chamber Orchestra (ART/P; 1 cr)
MUS 2101: Core Studies II: Music Theory III (HUM; 4 cr)
MUS 2102: Core Studies II: Music Theory IV (HUM; 4 cr)
MUS 4101: Form and Analysis (4 cr)
MUS 4102: Counterpoint (FA; 4 cr)
MUS 4103: Seminar: Topics in Music History (HIST; 4 cr)

Motion: (Ericksen/Turk) to approve the revised Humanities courses.

Discussion: Ericksen stated that the revised courses are pretty straight forward, in response to student confusion for some, and the moving of sign language from 3 to 4 credits, to bring it in line with the other lower level language offerings. It will also now meet the regular length of a 4-credit course.

The music ensemble changes involve going back to S/N grading. The current A/F grading inflates the grade reports at the end of the year, showing that Humanities gives an extraordinary number of A grades.

Vote: Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Deactivated Humanities Course

ENGL 1002: Fundamentals of Writing II (CW; 4 cr)

Motion: (O'Loughlin/Patterson) to approve the deactivated Humanities course.

Discussion: Ericksen explained that the deactivated course is the second semester of fundamentals of writing. Some time ago it switched to a full year course that took the place of college writing. Staffing and student schedules caused problems with the implementation. Fundamentals I will stay but will not fulfill the CW requirement. This will go into effect next year. Helsper suggested that the Roman numeral I be removed from Fundamentals I. Finzel agreed that it can be removed as an editorial change.

Vote: Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

New IS Courses

IS 1807: Drugged Society: Humanity’s Long-term Relationship with Mind-altering Substances (IC; 2 cr)

IS 1808: Agents and Agency: Modeling Emergence in the Social Sciences (IC; 2 cr)

Motion: (Cook/Ng) to approve the new IS courses.

Discussion: Finzel explained that the new IS courses are new IC courses. Both meet the expectations of IC.

Vote: Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

3. GENERAL EDUCATION WRITING REQUIREMENT PROPOSAL

Turk explained that the revisions to the Gen Ed writing requirement proposal consist of some editorial tweaks to the background information and the problems with the current system. The proposal reflects the discussions that the committee has had at previous meetings. It is essentially broken out into three parts. The first part proposes a new course name and number. The title “Writing for the Liberal Arts” is proposed and the name of the Gen Ed Requirement would have to change to reflect that. The goal of changing the name is to help students see the distinction between what UMM offers and what a high school level course with the title of “college writing” offers. The second part addresses the concern about not accepting a transfer course as an equivalent. Some courses might transfer, but most of those would transfer as college writing, which would remain on the books, but would not be taught at UMM. This means that students who take College-in-the-Schools (CIS) or have taken comp courses elsewhere that are not quite equivalent to what we are asking students to do (but seem deserving of college credit) would get credit but not fulfill their on-campus writing requirement. Thirdly, test scores alone will not fulfill the Gen Ed requirement. Tests don’t actually measure student writing. Tests measure how well a student recognizes analogies or parts of speech, but not how well a student can produce and revise parts of prose.

A difference between the current college writing course and the proposed course is that the new course would absorb more of the information literacy skills. Fairbanks asked for clarification if everyone would have to take the new course, even students with transfer credits who are skilled writers. Turk answered that everyone would be expected to take the new course. Ericksen added that some transfer credits would count, just not towards the writing requirement. Fairbanks stated that when she brought up the proposal to her MCSA students, they were hesitant about supporting a change that required students to pay tuition to take a course that they had already taken in high school or would have placed out of. Cook answered that the professor teaching the Morris course could differentiate between the writing levels of students in the class and could challenge the students who come in with writing experience.

O'Loughlin stated that it is a great idea, but when it is presented at Scholastic Committee and Campus Assembly, a visual mapping of the new system would be helpful. It may help with the marketing of the proposal. Also, some students will need to be shown how the new course is distinguished from college writing so they don't feel that we are just taking their money when we require them to take the new course. Turk pointed out that the new course will have a new course description and new course number. Finzel added that the new course will come forward in the next catalog cycle, and the general education portion of the catalog will need to be revised to remove the note that says "this course may be fulfilled through exemption."

Patterson stated that some majors, like chemistry, have a high credit requirement. A fair number of the chemistry students place out of college writing. Putting another required course into the pot will be a problem for some students. Cook stated that UMM students should graduate with good writing skills. It will improve their marketability, so it is worth the 4 credits. Patterson agreed with the value of the course, but said that he was worried about how large those majors are and the difficulty getting all the required courses in and then performing well in those courses. Alia stated that a large number of students who come in to the chemistry major take college writing (more than 50%). Typically, the first semester, students take general chemistry with a lab, then calculus, college writing, and an IC course. A large number who don't take calculus take pre-calculus. If anything slows down the chemistry major, it is not getting into calculus right away. That is a much larger issue than having to take college writing, since calculus is a prerequisite for other courses. Meek added that pre-med students also have to take college writing. Turk stated that if more sections of the writing course were offered, there could be more of a variety of time options.

Finzel stated that he expects the course will go forward next fall along with catalog changes, with full implementation in fall 2013. He asked that English put together the course proposal and the changes to the Gen Ed component of the catalog.

Motion: (Cook/O'Loughlin) to approve the revised writing proposal as written, changing the new course number to 1xxx until the new number is assigned.

Vote: Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Finzel stated that he will take the proposal to the Scholastic Committee in the next two weeks. It will go to the Campus Assembly in April.

Finzel asked that the repackaging proposals regarding general education be submitted by Ericksen and Patterson for the next meeting. He asked the entire committee to look at how general education is presented in the catalog and in advising materials.

Adjourned 12:48 p.m.
Submitted by Darla Peterson