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Curriculum minutes 11/06/2014

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**UMM CURRICULUM COMMITTEE
2014-15 MEETING #8 Minutes
November 6, 2014, 10:50 a.m., MFR**

Members Present: Bart Finzel (chair), Sarah Ashkar, Donna Chollett, Stephen Crabtree, Dan Demetriou, Janet Ericksen, Pieranna Garavaso, Sara Haugen, Peh Ng, Ricky Rojas, Emily Sunderman, and Sonja Swanson

Members Absent: Carol Cook, Pilar Eble, Maryanna Kroska, and Gwen Rudney

Visitors: Jayne Hacker, Kellie Meehlhause, and Jeri Squier

In these minutes: Program changes and catalog course change clean-up in the Division of the Humanities; Program changes in the Division of the Social Sciences

Announcements

Finzel announced that the agenda includes the Humanities program changes as well as the Social Sciences program changes that were omitted from last week's agenda. Next week will cover Interdisciplinary Studies and Education program changes, and clean-up from Science and Mathematics. He asked members to remind colleagues that EDP grants are due on November 17.

Approval of Minutes – October 30, 2014

MOTION (Ng/Garavaso) to approve the October 30, 2014 minutes, with minor revisions noted. Minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Division of the Humanities Catalog Program Changes and Course Clean-up

Art History (ArtH)

Garavaso explained that art history has few changes in both the major and minor. They have updated their objectives and have added new elective offerings and deactivated others that are no longer taught.

Studio Art (ArtS)

There are no changes other than the insertion of the Student Learning Outcomes in the program description.

One provisionally approved course is seeking regular approval:
ArtS 1606 – Film Studies and the Creative Process (3 cr; ART/P)

Communication, Media, and Rhetoric (CMR)

CMR is proposing a few changes in the description of the major, including the Student Learning Outcomes. The program has added one new IC course and two new rhetoric courses that are in line with faculty interests. The rhetoric courses will rotate with other electives courses.

Dance (Dnce)

Dnce 1330 – Introduction to Dance in Musical Theatre (1 cr; ART/P) was considered by the committee at the October 9 meeting when it was pointed out that the title gave the impression that it will be an overview of dance but the description specifically focused on ballet. It was suggested that either the title should include a reference to ballet or the description should be changed to say it is a basic study of dance. It has come back to the Curriculum Committee for approval with the word “ballet” removed from the description.

English (Engl)

The HUM Gen Ed was removed from a lot of upper level courses and WLA was dropped from the major. The creative writing minor for non-English majors and the creative writing sub-plan in the English major were approved last April.

French (Fren)

French made a lot of changes to the major and minor. They have replaced Fren 3001 (a 4-credit course) with three 2-credit courses that will focus on civilization and composition. They are discontinuing the 4-credit senior seminar and replacing it with a 2-credit capstone project, plus a 1-credit requirement in professional preparation. They have added two 1-credit courses at the 2xxx level to enable students to continue working on their language skills. These courses can be repeated up to 4 credits to count toward the French major. Advanced language courses have been changed to variable credit courses to offer more flexibility in scheduling. And, finally, they are adding Medieval and Early Modern Studies courses that will be taught by a new tenure-line faculty member with an expertise in the area. Finzel asked for clarification on what the certificate program in French is. Garavaso answered that it is less than a minor, so it is listed at the end of the program. Finzel asked if it is an education licensure. Squier noted that Spanish also has a certificate program. With the two Division of Education representatives absent for this meeting, it is difficult to answer. Sunderman stated that she is getting a licensure in Spanish. The program is two electives less than a minor. Finzel asked if German Studies has a certificate program in German. Ericksen answered that it did not have one when it had only one faculty member before the German major was changed to a German Studies major. Since the transition it has not been discussed. The certificate program in French states in the last line: “A student who has met the above requirements will receive a reference letter from the UMM French faculty certifying completion of the certificate program as well as language competence based on guidelines published by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL).”

German Studies

Garavaso stated that the tenure-track German Studies faculty member has been working on rebuilding the program. The main theme of the changes made is to address the concern that the current curriculum is based on the idea that students will arrive on campus with a high level of German proficiency. This is not the case, so courses are being added to focus on building language competency and ensure students who move from 2xxx-level courses are prepared for the 3xxx-level courses.

Six new courses were proposed:

Ger 3002 – Introduction to the Linguistic Analysis of German (4 cr; IP)

Ger 3333 – Advanced German Grammar (4 cr; IP)

Ger 3602 – Scandinavian Literature 20th and 21st Century Novel (4 cr; HUM)

- Ger 3701 – The Red Army Faction in German Literature (4 cr; IP)
Ger 3702 – Martial Masculinities: Manhood and Aggression in German Literature
and Culture (4 cr; HUM)
Ger 4001 – German Civilization I: From the Stone Age to 1871 (4 cr; HIST)

Finzel noted that when Study Abroad is mentioned, it identifies very specific institutions in Berlin, Vienna, Potsdam, and Freiburg, where students may spend a semester or year. We don't have exchange programs with those particular places. Ashkar noted that if a program is not affiliated with the U of M, we do not want it mentioned in the catalog. Squier stated that she will change the language about study abroad to match the Spanish program.

Humanities

One new course was proposed:

- Hum 4102 – Linguistics for Students of Literature (4 cr; HUM)

This is a new course offered by a faculty member in German studies with an expertise in linguistics. It was initially presented as a German course but it is much more general, so they were encouraged to offer it as a humanities course. Chollett noted that in the rationale, it lists a number of disciplines that might be interested in this course. She would like to have anthropology added to the list. One of their sub-plans is linguistics and they have no other access to a linguistics course. Finzel asked why a 4xxx-level course has no prerequisites. Ericksen answered that her understanding is that it is a complicated course and the instructor wants people with experience in language or a field in literature and didn't know what course(s) would cover that prerequisite. Finzel suggested that requiring junior status might be appropriate. Squier added that we have some courses that require "some knowledge of. . ." as a prerequisite. Ng suggested having met the foreign language requirement as a prerequisite. Finzel stated that it should either have a prerequisite or perhaps be changed to a lower level course. It was decided to table the course and send it back to the discipline to consider the suggested revisions.

Music (Mus)

Garavaso stated that the new description was extremely well written. The objectives were updated and the program was updated by adding new courses and deactivating courses that are no longer taught. A full-semester course in music arranging and orchestration was created to replace two half-semester courses that had covered instrumental and choral arranging separately. Gen Ed designators were removed from three upper-division courses because they are electives designed for music majors.

Philosophy (Phil)

Four new courses were proposed:

- Phil 2162 – Ethics of Love and Sex (4 cr; HUM)
Phil 4902 – Advanced Seminar in History of Philosophy (4 cr; HUM)
Phil 4903 – Advanced Seminar in History of Metaphysics and Epistemology (4 cr; HUM)
Phil 4904 – Advanced Seminar in Value Theory (4 cr; HUM)

Garavaso stated that the significant change in philosophy involves abandoning the 2-credit capstone course Phil 4901 – senior philosophical defense, and replacing it with the three advanced research seminars listed above. The additional course, Phil 2162, is an elective. Ng cautioned that

the discipline be mindful of juniors who will be caught in the middle of the transition. Finzel asked if there would be a sufficient number of capstones to offer. Garavaso answered that there were five last semester and three this semester. The average has been 6-7 each year.

Spanish (Span)

The course revisions in Spanish reflect deactivations of courses that had been taught by the late professor Cabrera, as well as revisions to reflect new staffing.

Theatre Arts (Th)

There were no changes made to the theatre arts major and minor.

MOTION (Ng/Ericksen) to approve the humanities program and course changes that have been discussed, with the exception of Hum 4102, which will be sent back to the discipline for revision. The motion passed unanimously (10-0-0).

Division of the Social Sciences Catalog Program Changes

[At last week's meeting the minors were omitted from the agenda and the major and minor in the political science program had been omitted.]

Ericksen stated that most of the minors (Soc, Econ, Mgmt, GWSS, Hist, Pol and Psy) had no changes other than in the electives, with the exception of anthropology, which increased its minor by one credit. Anth 2101, a lab course, was changed significantly, including a name change (from physical anthropology to biological anthropology) and a 1-credit increase resulting in a 5-credit course.

Political Science (Pol)

Ericksen noted that there are a total of six new courses and a reduction in the overall credits required for the major. The reduction from 42 to 40 credits is the result of removing Stat 1601 from the required course list. It will be a recommended option. The rationale is that they find that students with an interest in going on to law school are better served by taking symbolic logic rather than statistics. Advisers plan to strongly recommend that students take statistics anyway, but it will no longer be required. The number of courses is increased by six because they took a large number of 4-credit courses and converted them to 2-credit courses. This will not result in faculty teaching more courses, but there will be more course options on the books.

Ng expressed concern about a political science discipline not requiring a stats course. She stated that attorneys need to be well versed in statistics. Garavaso stated that statistics show that philosophy majors do better in law school than statistics majors. Swanson stated that she is a pre-law student and took statistics to satisfy her M/SR Gen Ed. If a student took the course for that reason, it isn't likely they would take the logic course that would be a better help in taking the LSAT for law school. Garavaso stated that it would be great if students were required to take both courses. Finzel recalled when political science used to have its own statistics class, which they dropped at some point and required the course in the statistics discipline. Now they are dropping the program requirement altogether. Ericksen reminded the committee that the course is still listed as an option. Ng stated that it is still a change. It will be a concern when we want students to have learned quantitative literacy, one of the Student Learning Outcomes that will be assessed.

Crabtree asked why the required credits are so low to begin with. Ericksen answered that she expects they are keeping the credits at 40 for philosophical reasons, to keep it a liberal arts program.

MOTION (Ng/Garavaso) to approve the social science program and changes as presented. The motion passed unanimously (10-0-0).

Finzel asked Ericksen to share the committee's comments with the political science faculty. He thanked the committee and those who have done an awful lot of work behind the scenes.

Submitted by Darla Peterson