

11-9-2016

Curriculum minutes 11/09/2016

Curriculum Committee

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Curriculum Committee, "Curriculum minutes 11/09/2016" (2016). *Curriculum Committee*. 76.
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UMM CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

2016-17 MEETING #6 Minutes

November 9, 2016, 8:00 a.m., Moccasin Flower Room

Members Present: Bart Finzel (chair), Arne Kildegaard, Pieranna Garavaso, Peh Ng, Gwen Rudney, Tracey Anderson, Mary Elizabeth Bezanson, Stephen Crabtree, Kellie Meehlhause, Christi Perkinson, Stephanie Ferrian, and Judy Korn

Members Absent: Kerri Barnstuble, Jennifer Deane, Jessica Gardner, and Madison Hughes

Visitors: Nancy Helsper, Jeri Squier, and Rebecca Dean

In these minutes: Catalog program changes in the Division of Science and Mathematics and the Division of the Social Sciences.

[Note: The minutes from the October 19, 2016 meeting were approved by email vote to make them available to the campus prior to the November 9 meeting of the Campus Assembly. Eight of the 13 eligible members voted; all were in favor, with one amendment.]

Announcements

Finzel reminded the committee that weekly meetings are scheduled throughout the month of November. EDP applications were due on November 7. The committee can begin their review soon.

Catalog Program Changes

Finzel announced that the committee is being asked to review program changes differently than in the past. He asked for feedback on how well the new procedure is working. Instead of having a Form B or a print-out of PCAS come before the committee, disciplines were asked to fill out an expanded version of the Form A, providing a narrative explanation of the changes. Although he is aware that this summary of changes is not sufficient for catalog copy, it may be sufficient for the committee. This change requires that the disciplines be more diligent to ensure accuracy when the PCAS is prepared and catalog copy is reviewed.

Division of Science and Mathematics

Biology

Ng stated that there was not much change in the biology major requirements. Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLOs) were added to the catalog description. There were no changes in the number of credits required in the major or minor.

Garavaso noted that the Biology major requires 62-63 credits, the Chemistry major requires 60-76 credits, and the Environmental Science major requires 69 credits. The catalog states that a major cannot require more than 40 credits in one discipline, but it doesn't say that a major cannot require more than 60 credits total from all disciplines. It has been her understanding that a major should not require more than 60 credits so that students are free to explore other areas outside the major's discipline and division. This is a big issue and one that should be discussed by this body. Biology is a wonderful program, and very good at preparing students for graduate school, but these students aren't likely to take a second language or take a writing course above WLA that might require a prereq. They will never take a Philosophy class.

How does this foster the liberal arts? She stated that she would not vote to approve any majors that require more than 60 credits.

Ng noted that any student can get a Chemistry major by taking only 60 credits. The additional credits only come into play if a student wants to pursue a sub-plan like Bio-Chemistry. She added that some of the electives in Chemistry are outside the discipline. It's a very interdisciplinary major. The FA, AP, FL, WLA, SS, HIST, and Global Village Gen Eds are all taken outside the Division of Science and Mathematics. Garavaso stated that students still don't have the freedom to take additional courses outside of the division. The increase in credits was approved in the past, but she wanted to be clear that she did not think it was right. Why not be clear and say that we have pre-professional programs that prepare students for graduate school, instead saying that it's a liberal arts education. Anderson stated that instead of pre-professional, many programs in the Division of Science and Math that have more than 60 credits are interdisciplinary programs, with required courses outside the major. Students are taking courses outside the division. She has Biology majors participating in the Theatre discipline's play, for example.

Crabtree stated that ESci requires so many 1xxx- and 2xxx-level courses that the only way to get depth in the major is to take upper-level electives distributed across divisions. Many of his advisees are ESci majors and when pursuing ESci they assume that they need to take a little bit heavier course load to get it done. For those who do take a heavier load, it prepares them better in that field. Garavaso noted that it is the degree and the demand for the degree that is pushing it. Science and Math majors are very sequential. It's different in the Humanities. They don't require as many credits because they don't have as many students and can't afford to do it.

Kildegaard noted that the Social Science major was designed for breadth, not depth. The 40-credit requirement consists of all 1xxx-level courses. Beyond that, the student would need to get a minor in some other discipline. The only rule about 60 credits in the catalog is that we require a minimum of 60 credits outside the discipline of the major. We can't cajole each other into shortening our majors, as long as we ensure that 60 credits are taken outside the major discipline. Finzel noted that Biology went over the 60 credits when Chemistry changed their credit count from 4 credits to 5 credits. There wasn't a decision to increase the number of credits in the major. It was driven by a credit increase that fit the work in the course.

Anderson asked what constitutes a discipline when looking at interdisciplinary programs. Finzel answered that it is language that predates our interdisciplinary programs. We may want to change that. Ng noted that we need to look at interdisciplinary majors differently. It's a good thing to have interdisciplinary majors. Environmental Studies is a true interdisciplinary major that requires courses across divisions. Finzel stated that this is an agenda item that should be handled separately at another time, and asked Ng to continue presenting the program changes in Science and Math.

MOTION was made to approve the proposed program changes in Biology. Motion was approved by a vote of (8-1-1).

Chemistry

Ng stated that the changes in Chemistry consist of 1) a 4-credit course has been split into two 2-credit courses to provide more flexibility in elective choices; 2) the electives statement has been changed from "two courses" to "6 credits" to enable breadth in electives; and 3) two online and two study abroad summer courses have been added, to give students more Gen Ed options.

MOTION was made to approve the proposed program changes in Chemistry. Motion was approved by a vote of (8-1-1).

Computer Science

Ng noted the number of credits required for the major has increased by 1 credit. This is due to the senior seminar, CSci 4901, increasing from 1 to 2 credits. The addition of 1 course in the major reflects a split of one 5-credit course (CSci 3401) into two courses: CSci 3402 (3 credits) and 3403 (2 credits). The decrease in the number of courses listed in the catalog at the 1xxx and 2xxx level reflects deactivation of CSci 1101, which had not been offered in several years. The number of 3xxx and 4xxx courses increased by two courses reflects the split of CSci 3401 mentioned earlier, as well as the addition of a new 2-credit elective, CSci 4609. The number of courses with no Gen Ed designator has increased by six, due to six newly added courses at the 3xxx and 4xxx level without Gen Eds, the deactivation of CSci 3401 which had the M/SR GenEd, and two courses no longer having the Gen Ed because their prereqs have the same Gen Eds. PSLOs were also added to the catalog description.

Korn stated that there is an issue regarding allowing an S-N course to be counted toward the major. They are replacing the statement:

“Courses may not be taken S-N unless offered S-N only”

with the following statement:

“Non-elective courses may not be taken S-N unless offered S-N only.

Up to 4 credits of CSci 4xxx taken S-N may be counted towards the major requirement.”

The intent is to allow more flexibility in the schedules of juniors or seniors. Squier stated that this is a significant change that should be added to the Form A before going forward to the Campus Assembly. Korn stated that if CSci allows S-N grades to count toward the major, they will be the only major in the U of M system that allows students to choose this option. She reviewed policies for credit and grade credits for degree and was surprised that Morris is not included in the policy. All of the other campuses have an S-N policy for the major. Ng added that it's a SCEP policy, but it does not include Morris. Korn stated that it could impact a student along the way if they chose S-N and later tried to transfer to another campus, it would not count toward a major. Perkinson asked how many classes are left before graduation for a student who took a 4xxx-level course. Ng answered that they can take it quickly and have more to take. Perkinson added that they probably wouldn't transfer near the end of the major, but if they are in the middle of the major it might be a problem. Finzel noted that the rationale is that given the tendency to offer specialized curriculum once every 2-3 years, they try to create access to that specialized curriculum when it's offered. Ng stated that the discipline is aware they would be the only major allowing this, and students should go into it with their eyes wide open.

MOTION was made to approve the proposed program changes in Computer Science. Motion was approved by a vote of (9-0-1).

Environmental Science

Ng noted that one course (Chem 3401) was retired. It was cross-listed as ESci 3401 and has been removed without replacement. PSLOs were added to the course description.

MOTION was made to approve the proposed program changes in Environmental Science. Motion was approved by a vote of (9-0-1).

Geology

Ng noted that PSLOs were added to the program narrative, one course was reactivated, two were deactivated, and updates to the minor include one 3xxx course addition, to comply with the policy that we have a minor requiring at least three credits of 3xxx-level coursework.

MOTION was made to approve the proposed program changes in Geology. Motion was approved by a vote of (9-0-1).

Mathematics

Ng stated the online pre-calculus course has been deactivated (Math 1014). Math 2111 was renumbered to Math 3111, which explains the reduction in 1xxx and 2xxx courses and the addition of a 3xxx course.

MOTION was made to approve the proposed program changes in Mathematics. Motion was approved by a vote of (9-0-1).

Physics

Ng stated that two course numbers were changed to better reflect the level of the course content: Phys 2301-Atmospheric physics changed to Phys 3004. Phys 2401-Optics changed to Phys 3301. PSLOs were added to the program narrative.

MOTION was made to approve the proposed program changes in Mathematics. Motion was approved by a vote of (9-0-1).

Statistics

Ng stated that Stat 3901 was added to the major, replacing Stat 4611. The credits for Senior Seminar, Stat 4901, have increased from one to two. PSLOs were also added. For consistency, in the financial or staffing implications section, it mentions that “one fewer section of Stat 1601 will be offered to offset the increased faculty workload for the addition of Stat 3901 and direct supervision of Stat 4901.” This strategy will depend on enrollment. Ng added that the minor should be consistent and add the verbiage that no credits can be taken S-N.

MOTION was made to approve the proposed program changes in Mathematics. Motion was approved by a vote of (9-0-1).

Division of the Social Sciences

Anthropology

Kildegaard announced that he had invited Professor Rebecca Dean to attend since it was she who crafted the program changes in Anthropology. Dean explained that Anthropology has four sub-disciplines (cultural anthropology, archaeology, biological anthropology, and linguistics). Each are radically different in methods, focus, and theoretical perspectives. These differences can pose challenges to our small program. To address the staffing challenges, Anthropology has added “scaffolding classes” to the major: courses on the 2xxx and 3xxx levels that prepare students for upper-level courses and research experiences by introducing methods and theories early in their career. A course in Professional Skills was added, and a wider variety of electives at 2 credits have been added that allows the program to offer more variety without adding faculty.

Bezanson stated that scaffolding classes is a good thing. The major moved from 9 to 13 classes, and the total credit number is now 43. One change she would recommend to the Form A in the future is to ask how many courses or credits are within or outside the discipline of the major. It's hard to compare majors, especially now that we have interdisciplinary majors. She asked if any of the 43 credits include courses outside the discipline. Dean responded that there are no required courses outside the discipline, but they do accept electives in Sociology and other related disciplines. The number of credits required by

the Anthropology discipline would be 35 credits. Finzel stated that there is an increase in the number of courses offered and credits, but there is no statement about the staffing implications. Dean explained there is not a huge increase in the number of credits. There are a number of new courses, but they are only 2 credit courses. It can be done with the three FTE they currently have. Finzel asked if it would cause a great deal of problems if someone had a single semester leave or sabbatical, or is there flexibility built into the program. Dean answered that they have to teach intro classes, but for the courses in one of the sub-disciplines, they can guide the students to take a course that would have been taught by that faculty member in a different semester or year.

MOTION was made to approve the proposed program changes in Anthropology. Motion was approved by a vote of (10-0-0).

Economics

Kildegaard stated that two courses were added (3132 and 4502), three were deactivated (3011, 3133, 3351), and the GenEd designator was removed from thirteen 3xxx-level courses.

MOTION was made to approve the proposed program changes in Economics. Motion was approved by a vote of (10-0-0).

History

Kildegaard stated that nine courses were added because of new faculty in History. The program is not changing. It is simply a matter of a new slate of offerings they were not able to offer until now. The new courses will benefit interdisciplinary programs such as GWSS, American Indian Studies, and African and Black American Studies. Finzel asked if a similar number of courses had been deactivated. Squier answered that most of the courses are offered by a new faculty member in a totally new field of history.

MOTION was made to approve the proposed program changes in History. Motion was approved by a vote of (10-0-0).

Management

Kildegaard stated that there were no significant program changes. Eight courses were deactivated because they were either taught by departed faculty or otherwise are not intended to be taught again in the near future. GenEd designators have been removed from six upper-division courses that share a GenEd designator with a prerequisite course.

MOTION was made to approve the proposed program changes in Management. Motion was approved by a vote of (10-0-0).

Political Science

Kildegaard stated that there were no changes to the major other than adding PSLOs to the course description. Squier added that there was one change in the minor. Due to a course number change (Pol 3354 to 2354), Pol 2354 was moved to the 2xxx-level electives list.

MOTION was made to approve the proposed program changes in Management. Motion was approved by a vote of (10-0-0).

Psychology

Kildegaard stated that there were no significant changes in Psychology, other than housecleaning. Eight courses were deactivated, and two courses were added.

MOTION was made to approve the proposed program changes in Psychology. Motion was approved by a vote of (10-0-0).

Sociology

Kildegaard stated that Soc 2201-Sociology of Food was added. Soc 3204, 3601, and 3602 were deactivated because the faculty who offered them have retired.

MOTION was made to approve the proposed program changes in Sociology. Motion was approved by a vote of (10-0-0).

Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies (GWSS)

Kildegaard stated that one course at the 2xxx level has been added from the English discipline, and one 3xxx-level course that was previously taught by the French discipline has been deactivated.

MOTION was made to approve the proposed program changes in GWSS. Motion was approved by a vote of (10-0-0).

Human Services

Kildegaard stated that the changes were discussed when the course changes came before the committee. HMSV 2001-Introduction to Human Services course was changed to HMSV 3001-Theory and Practice of Human Services. A HMSV-specific internship was added: HMSV 4896 Internship in the Human Services.

MOTION was made to approve the proposed program changes in Human Services. Motion was approved by a vote of (10-0-0).

Social Science Major

Kildegaard stated that the range of courses and credits in the major depends on the minor that is chosen. This major incorporates the minors in Social Science. The only change is the reduction of one course for the Anthropology minor, which in turn reduces the number of courses for this major.

MOTION was made to approve the proposed program changes in the Social Science major. Motion was approved by a vote of (10-0-0).