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3-3-2015

Humanities Division meeting minutes 03/03/2015

Humanities Division

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3/3/2015 Humanities Division Meeting at 6:00 PM in HFA 6

Agenda:
1) Discussion of revised Recommendations for Humanities Division Peer Review of Teaching (in attachment the new text of the recommendations with proposed revisions in red and a second document containing an explanation of the main revisions and rationales behind such revisions).
2) Curriculum items; in attachment you will find a PCAS form concerning changes to the Music Minor. the request for regular approval of Music 1062, i.e., Symphonic Winds and Jazz Ensemble's tour to UK; request for two intermediate Chinese courses; and the change of an English course from 3000 to 2000 level.
3) Update from Ellie Musselmann concerning the Humanities Web Page.

1) HDAC proposal: James clarifies where things stand about the peer review of teaching. We have already dealt with tenured and tenure-track faculty. This document deals with non-tenure track faculty with 50% appointments or more.
   a. The document was revised to make the process less cumbersome.
   b. Peer review of non-tenure track faculty is necessary, because the University requires review of all faculty teaching.
   c. Mark Collier asks: if all faculty must be reviewed, why only 50% and more?
      1. James says that we don't have the resources to do all. So we compromised by doing 50% or more.
   d. Mary Elizabeth is concerned about the complicated nature of the process—lots of people being reviewed.
      1. James says that it will only be done if there is enough resources to do it. The hope is to review within five years, so there is some flexibility.
   e. Mary Elizabeth doesn't think that anyone should be able to request being reviewed. She suggests that we do this at the discretion of the division.
      1. James agreed and will make this change in the document.
   f. Pieranna thinks we have a moral obligation to the visiting faculty to produce a polished and professional document about their record of achievement in the classroom.
   g. Document unanimously approved.
2) Curriculum items:
   a. Music 1062—check with Jason and Simon about a student option for grade
   b. Music minor change—piano proficiency. Change from 4 to 2 credits for piano. This will enable students to take more theory of music courses, which will make them more well rounded musicians.
   c. English: change from 3xxx to a 2xxx course.
   d. Chinese courses: Intermediate one and two. The language for the courses are consistent with other language courses.
      1. Janet notes that these courses are funded through the Confucius Institute .
      2. Mary Elizabeth says that these course descriptions are not consistent with Spanish with regard to conversation-level proficiency.
      3. James is concerned about the consistency problem—students will notice the differences.

4. There might be a need to make the course descriptions consistent with the other language courses.
5. There is a concern about potentially misleading students. Courses might not be offered in the future..
6. To address this problem, Barbara suggests that we say that the courses will be taught when feasible.
7. But Pieranna says that the courses will be offered for the next two years because of Confucius funding.
8. Next year intermediate one and two will be offered.
9. Mark worries that a student could take first-year courses assuming that the intermediate courses will be taught, but then it is possible that they won't be taught. This would be hugely disappointing for the student.
10. Pieranna says that we should stipulate that the courses will be taught when feasible.
11. All curricular changes approved.
3) Update from Ellie Musselmann concerning the Humanities Web Page.
   a. Ellie's Presentation: She will develop a page featuring the work and events of the Humanities Division:
      1. Art Gallery shows
      2. Musical performances
      3. Fashion shows
      4. Readings.
      5. Etc.
   b. List of events—lots of visuals. Ellie wants us to send her event info and accompanying visuals.
      1. Faculty responds: Tisha wants to know the traffic on the division page. Ellie doesn't have that info.
      2. Ellie wonders if it should be put elsewhere. Tisha, speaking for herself, would not go to division page. She would go to discipline pages.
      3. Siobhan wonders if we should post it on multiple sites.
      4. Mark shares Tisha's skepticism. Mark thinks it could be on multiple pages.
      5. But Tisha says that having it on multiple pages would be work intensive.
      6. Janet thinks all disciplines should have a link. The parents look for the links. The links should be just a sample. It's not possible or desirable to post everything, just samples.
      7. Becca says that most students go to discipline pages, and they don't stay on too long.
      8. Tisha: it takes a lot of clicks to get to Humanities page. More accessible pages should be developed rather than the Humanities page.
      9. Jess: what is needed is a tool for making the case for the humanities, not necessarily targeting students here, but to advertise the humanities.
      10. Viktor: This can't be a calendar of events. Target parents and families with highlights to draw students.
      11. Julia [working with Ellie on this project]: Our intention was that the site would not be too specific, but bring together our "headline" annual

events in a more visual/aural way, and in so doing complement our current Humanities page with its verbal description of what we do. Another potential audience (besides current/prospective students, and current/prospective faculty) is community members. Do more showing, less telling.

12. James: Pages should start by claiming that the discipline is part of the humanities.
13. Viktor: Humanities page impossible to find.
14. Steve: Division page can't be too busy.
15. Barbara worries that whatever we do, the gatekeepers will control the message.
16. Ellie is working with external relations.

4) Becca lost her wifi signal. Pieranna will look into this.
5) Janet encourages us to contact Jeff Backer and Torey Westrom about regents.

The meeting adjourned at 7 pm; Minute taker: Michael Lackey