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Humanities Division meeting minutes 10/27/ 2014

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Humanities Division Meeting - 10/27/2014 7pm

HFA 6

The meeting started at 7pm. Earlier there were two announced agenda items,

1. HDAC Election (filling one open slot)
2. Approval of Curricular changes.

Pieranna Garavaso added two new items to the agenda:

3. Maximum number of minimum credits for a major discussion in the Curriculum Committee
4. Her absence from Nov. 8 to Nov. 20 and related issues.

Item 2 was considered first, treating one discipline at a time. Detailed notes were taken by Jayne Hacker, who will gladly respond to questions. It was also mentioned that Jeri Squier had helped with the PCAS changes and offered to help more.

Art History. Tammy Berberi said all the Gen Ed designators still are on the PCAS forms. Jayne said that the curriculum committee advised to leave them there. Julia Dabbs explained further that they were still present on upper-level courses as those courses can be taken without any pre-requisite, if one has junior or senior status. Pieranna said that the SLOs were looking good in the Art History forms.

CMR. There is a different document for the minor. There is a statement on the minor form that needed to be changed. It was replaced with the same statement as on the major form. It was pointed out that there is an extra sentence which needs to be eliminated.

English. SLOs are properly in the document. A lot of Gen Ed designators have been taken out. Julie Eckerle said that more should have been taken out, and so the document is not in its final form. Jayne said not to worry about it because the changes will make it into the final version.

The new creative writing sub-plan requires credits that are not used for the English major. It was discussed how it is strongly recommended that students take English 2121 in the classroom and not online.

French. It was agreed that the certificate statement should be removed from the major description. It should only appear after the minor description.

There was discussion about the statement that students are required to take two semesters of language. This reflects an institutional requirement. Stacey Aronson said she called Jeri Squier who said it is a hard coded message in PCAS and can't be deleted. It appears under "Program Requirements" on both the major and minor for all the languages.

Brook Miller asked about the French certificate: how many courses minimum above 1002: Three? Tammy answered: 16 credits, so four courses. What is the purpose of the French certificate? The students get a letter about their skills for their job search their CV.s

German studies. It was pointed out that the two semester language requirement (imposed by the institution) appears in the German description too. There was a question about the statement in the PCAS about selection of elective Courses: why do the students need to have written approval of the course instructor and the program coordinator? Tonya Kim Dewey answered: to avoid potential double dips. There are some typos that appear in the form that will be fixed later. There was discussion about the rationale for the number of credits required to get the minor vs. the major. Other minor points included that the objectives were not in bulleted form.

Music. Pieranna said some of the course titles were striking. Wes Flinn said that the Fine Arts indicator should not be there in the counterpoint course. A course change form might be needed to change it.

Philosophy. Language statement is there too... There were no major changes.

Spanish. The two-semester language requirement is here too, but in a different form. No comments or questions.

Studio Art. Same changes as History of Art: numbers and titles. All the PCASs are looking good.

Theater. No discussion here.

A vote was taken to approve all the proposed changes. It passed without opposition.

We then returned to item 1 on the agenda, the HDAC election “take 2”. Julia Dabbs asked for volunteers or nominees for the open faculty position. She was asked who qualified, and indicated that it could be any non-tenured, tenure-track (except 1st year), or tenured faculty member (but no one from English due to two faculty from that discipline already on the committee). Windy Roberts volunteered for the position available and was heartily approved by all present.

Item 3 on the agenda was the issue of maximum number of credits for a major. Currently Biology, Chemistry, and Environmental Science all require more than 60 credits (including courses from other disciplines in the Science division). The base question is, Do we want our students to have 50% of their courses dictated by their major requirements? Pieranna presented some of the recent activity on the curriculum committee, to prepare us for the upcoming discussion in the Campus Assembly.

Stephen Carey talked about how students often do not fulfill their language requirement until late in their career. Tammy talked about a report about the importance of languages in the liberal arts and every career. Becca Gercken asked that we be careful in identifying this as an “interdisciplinary major” issue, given that a number of the interdisciplinary majors are not anywhere near requiring 60 credits.

Mary Elizabeth: We have been talking about the number of credits required from other majors. The majority of all these credits (for Enviro Studies) will be exclusively from Science.

Pieranna asked us to think about these issues. Brad Deane asked what is exactly the issue? The same as the issue back in 2007?

In item 4 on the agenda, Pieranna is going to be gone from November 8 to 21.

Summer courses requests should be sent to Julia Dabbs as assistant chair. EDPs should best be sent to Pieranna by November 6, rather than the EDP deadline of Nov. 14. However proposals that Pieranna does not get a chance to support will not be penalized according to Dean Finzel. They can be sent directly to Darla Peterson.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Windy Roberts

