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# Humanities Division meeting minutes 11/03/ 2015

Humanities Division

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Division of Humanities Meeting  
Tuesday, November 3, 2015, 6:30 p.m. HFA 6

Agenda from Pieranna's email:

1. Visit of Ben Iverson, new Director of Admission; Ben wants to introduce himself to our faculty, outline plans for his office, and hear feedback from us
  2. Janet Ericksen will talk about the Honors Program
  3. courses for regular approval (see attached forms): CMR 3311 (reactivation), 3433 and 4123 (new courses); Music 3107, 3108, 3109 (new courses), brief description of upcoming changes in Music
  4. Class Schedule deadline to the Humanities Division Office: **December 4, 2015** (Pieranna gone 12/23-1/15)
  5. Pieranna's request for proposals for the Curriculum Committee to discuss during Spring Semester
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1. Ben Iverson
    - a. New things Admissions office is trying, so we have awareness of direction we are heading
      - i. Priority – more diversity in degree-seeking (international) first-year students
        1. Ben and Christina in admissions traveled in Central America last month, good chance for success
        2. Andrew Sletten recruiting in Vietnam and Indonesia; good market dynamics for UMM.
    - b. Enrollment – steady over the last couple of years; down a total of 50 students
      - i. New students number is almost identical to last year.
      - ii. Many students come in already with credits.
      - iii. Students are applying to more and more schools (7-10).
      - iv. Our applications go up, but yield isn't necessarily higher.
      - v. How do we make the process more personalized and “humanized” – how to develop personal relationship with prospective students?
    - c. Community of Scholars
      - i. Most successful event we do, for yield of talented students
        1. Goal – increase student participation by 100+
      - ii. Added Saturday – all dates are Friday, February 5, Saturday Feb 6, and Saturday Feb 13.
      - iii. Will need faculty participation to help make it successful.
    - d. Feedback, question, ideas about partnering together – Ben is open to new things.
  2. Janet Ericksen – Honors Program
    - a. Hardest thing – getting faculty to fit honors classes into load
    - b. Both interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary
      - i. Fuse perspectives or set them side by side
    - c. Prefer them to be co-taught which allows multiple perspectives; can choose a topic that's interdisciplinary
    - d. Students come from all over campus – rewarding as well as challenging

- e. Allows different kinds of assignments
  - f. Ideally 2-credit classes work best. Enrollment records back up 2-credit classes. Can be difficult to schedule.
    - i. If co-taught, is 2 credits for each instructor.
    - ii. Can bank those 2 credits for 2 years. (i.e., 22-credits 1 year, 18 credits next year)
    - iii. Another possibility – teach an IC and an Honors on the same topic.
  - g. Talk to Janet if you have questions, ideas, need a teaching partner.
  - h. Barbara Burke asks if ICs might be offered in the spring (to plan for teaching Honors courses in opposite semester)
3. Jeri S. sent out email re: class schedule. Send schedule in to Division office by **December 4.**
- a. Pieranna keeps in mind disciplines that have potential sabbatical. Flexibility is key; think about what your discipline needs. Prepare an alternative schedule.
    - i. Janet argues that it wastes time to create a schedule because of the domino effect if a replacement is denied; Pieranna agrees.
4. New courses:
- a. 3 courses from CMR; 2 are new, 1 is reactivation.
    - i. CMR 3311 -- Small modification for reactivated course. Substitute “media” for word “television.” Service learning component to this class.
    - ii. CMR 3433 – New course proposed by Nade Sotirova on her area of expertise – Communication, Power and Identity.
      - 1. Janet suggests it could count as a GWSS elective.
    - iii. CMR 4123 – Rhetoric of Advertising – proposed by Mary Elizabeth Bezanson.
      - 1. Will be rotated with other classes.
      - 2. Jess Larson – is the class addressing aesthetics? Only text?
        - a. There will be a creative aspect to it – rhetoric involves pictures.
      - 3. Pieranna: is advertising discussed also in intro classes to CMR? Intro class looks at a range of theories. This would go into a more in-depth criticism, analysis.
  - b. 3 courses from Music.
    - i. General framework in which these are proposed:
      - 1. Music discipline has been discussing this for past 2 years:
      - 2. 3 main concerns:
        - a. Declines in our enrollment – nationwide an issue in music.
        - b. Concerned about lack of diversity in our current curriculum.
        - c. Current major structure has been limiting in terms of options for students, also in terms of course load for faculty.
      - 3. Working toward transitions for 2-credit courses to provide more options for students and flexibility for faculty course loads.

4. First 3 semesters – historical framework. Then, 2-credit courses offered for students to take as they can, as fits in their schedules.
  - ii. These courses are new “Perspectives” Courses – allowing more diverse repertoire.
    1. Music in 20<sup>th</sup>-Century America (proposed by Denise Odello)
    2. Analysis of Pop Music (proposed by Wes Flinn)
    3. Intellectual Foundations of Western Music (W. Flinn)
  - iii. Present more advanced critical perspectives which we currently can’t
  - iv. Prereqs – typically has been first year of Music Theory (1101, 1102)
    1. Avoid words “Music major or minor”.
    2. These new classes will also specify “... or permission of instructor”
  - v. Jimmy Schryver asks -- why are these 3000-level?
    1. These will be more advanced; we will put repertoire courses at 2000-level. These are conceived of more seminar-type courses with more advanced readings. Students will need to be able to read music.
  - vi. Viktor Berberi asks – can we insert language about necessary ability to read music for these courses?
    1. Current language in ECAS sounds like you need an equivalent course.
    2. Mary Elizabeth suggests adding “or facility in reading music.”
      - a. Wes Flinn: “Ability to read music and identify basic scales and chords.” Also he is not live-tweeting this. ☺ [PG: you need to be present to get the jokes]
  - vii. Barbara Burke – in terms of students seeking licensure, will these new courses affect this?
    1. Denise – state asks for familiarity with music of other cultures. Does not specify other repertoire or parts of the canon. Denise is meeting with Michelle Page soon.
  - c. Vote – all 5 courses approved.
5. Announcement – if you know a work-study student for 5-hours a week – have him/her talk to Cindy and Makiko (beginning now and continuing next semester).
  6. Request – review: feedback for Pieranna/Julia on the position and work of the Assistant Division Chair:
    - a. What can be done better.
    - b. What is done well.
    - c. Any other issues – please send Pieranna any constructive criticism by next **Tuesday, November 10.**
    - d. Currently Julia is ADC – Julia committed to 2 years. It would be economical for her to continue, but that is why we are seeking feedback from the division. If you are interested in being Assistant Chair, please let Pieranna know. 2 pages job description demonstrates that the granted one course release is amply warranted.

7. From Bart – he would like the Humanities Division to take on more leadership roles in the campus.
  - a. Pieranna asked, What do you have in mind?
  - b. This year is special year for Curriculum Committee. More time to consider different hypotheses. A wonderful time to send a proposal (because next year is a catalog year). Some ideas:
    - i. E.g. discussion with a number of faculty re: Film Studies. Could be an area of concentration. Looking for new ideas to attract new students; however, we are surrounded by schools that have wonderful film studies programs.
    - ii. Pieranna's concerned about Foreign Languages in general (i.e., other institutions have programs closing). Could other disciplines require foreign languages?
      1. Tracks within a discipline could be a way to address this.
      2. Steve Carey – this helps the majors – it doesn't change anything as the students will continue to take 2 semesters (i.e., Tammy Berberi's proposal of 2 semesters at whatever level they enter at).
      3. Pieranna asks Foreign Language colleagues to prepare a proposal.
    - iii. American Studies
  - c. This is a good time to propose these ideas. Be creative. Think about other possibilities.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.  
[minutes taken by Ann DuHamel]