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Curriculum Committee Minutes

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11-13-2014

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**UMM CURRICULUM COMMITTEE  
2014-15 MEETING #9 Minutes  
November 13, 2014, 10:50 a.m., MFR**

*Members Present:* Bart Finzel (chair), Sarah Ashkar, Carol Cook, Stephen Crabtree, Dan Demetriou, Pilar Eble, Janet Ericksen, Sara Haugen, Peh Ng, Ricky Rojas, Gwen Rudney, Emily Sunderman, and Sonja Swanson

*Members Absent:* Donna Chollett, Pieranna Garavaso, and Maryanna Kroska

*Visitors:* Stacey Aronson, Nancy Helsper, Judy Korn, Kellie Meehlhause, and Jeri Squier

*In these minutes: Program changes in the Division of Education; Program changes and catalog course change clean-up in Interdisciplinary Studies; Catalog course changes in the Division of the Humanities; and Program changes in the Division of Science and Mathematics*

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**Announcements**

Finzel reminded the committee that EDP grants are due on November 17. He also asked that members update their Google calendars or send their schedules to Darla as soon as possible so that a meeting time for spring semester can be determined. It is a large committee, and it would be great to get it on people's calendars before they begin to fill. Finzel mentioned that Tuesday, November 18, is the second annual Founders Scholar Forum on the Liberal Arts, at 7:30 in the Recital Hall. A discussion in the Curriculum Committee sparked the desire to have a campus conversation about the liberal arts, which gave birth to this annual event. He encouraged members to attend. Next week the name change of the Liberal Arts for the Human Services major will be discussed again. Dr. Heather Peters, author of the proposal, will be present to field questions.

**Approval of Minutes – November 6, 2014**

MOTION (Ericksen/Ng) to approve the November 6, 2014 minutes. Minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

**Division of Education Catalog Program Changes**

Rudney stated that the program changes in the Division of Education are related to the course changes that have already been reviewed. There are no surprises.

MOTION (Ericksen/Ng) to approve the education program changes as presented. The motion passed unanimously (11-0-0).

**Interdisciplinary Studies Catalog Program Changes and Course Clean-up**

Finzel noted that there were substantial changes proposed in Interdisciplinary Studies:

**African American Studies**

Finzel stated that the faculty most involved in the African American Studies minor program has proposed a name change. The name change will open up the minor so that it will include some

course content on Africa and a greater number of course offerings, which will add some interest in the minor. Courses in the minor are well subscribed, but very few students have chosen the minor. Other than that, changes in the minor reflect changes in courses that have already been discussed.

Ng voiced a concern about the sentences in the rationale portion of the proposal memo that states: “. . . it will allow us to address Black American populations that do not call themselves African-American, such as people of Caribbean or South Asian origin.” Speaking as someone from Southeast Asia who grew up with many South Asians, she questioned whether the use of “South Asian origin” was culturally appropriate. Finzel stated that he was curious about whether the name change will increase interest in the minor. Ericksen answered that it has been a quiet minor. The challenge will still be obtaining a consistent commitment to offer courses. Aronson asked whether Black populations in South America might be included. Finzel noted that the intent is to broaden the scope of the curriculum. Ashkar stated that she thought that was probably the intent when the proposal spoke of Black American populations that don’t think of themselves as African. Ericksen suggested that to avoid these questions going forward, the wording of the rationale might be revised. Demetriou suggested that African diaspora would be the best description. It was decided that Finzel would send a message to the faculty involved, suggesting a word change to the proposal.

[Note: After the meeting, Finzel contacted the faculty involved and suggested changing “. . . it will also allow us to address Black American populations that do not call themselves African-American, such as people of Caribbean or South Asian origin.” to: “. . . it will also allow us to address African diaspora populations in North America and throughout the world.” The faculty unanimously agreed to the suggested revision. Darla will make the change to the proposal before it is sent to Campus Assembly.]

### **American Indian Studies**

American Indian studies is dropping a required class and a series of electives, all of which were taught by a faculty member who has left UMM. The curriculum is a bit light in the social sciences, but we are currently in the process of a tenure-track search in American Indian Studies, so there will be more course offerings in future catalogs.

### **Environmental Studies**

Environmental studies draws from a variety of disciplines. The primary changes reflect the course changes in the curriculum of other disciplines.

### **Honors Program**

The honors program change reflects a change in the honors capstone requirement. The number of credits for IS 4994H has been changed from 2-4 to just 2 credits.

### **Latin American Area Studies**

The primary change is an updated program description with the inclusion of Student Learning Outcomes. Ericksen pointed out that the LAAS major requires only 30-33 credits, which is less than many minors. Having a major with fewer credits than many minors is wrong. This is one example of evidence that will be pertinent to the discussion later on about required credits in programs. Aronson stated that she suspects it has to do with LAAS major changes year-to-year depending on faculty who can participate. Finzel added that it is very rare that students have a

single major in LAAS. Sunderman asked how many credits the LAAS minor requires. Crabtree answered that it requires 23-26 credits. Ng stated that there is no incentive to have a minor when you can take one more class to get the major. Finzel noted that there is a 1-credit continuing engagement in the field required of majors every semester.

MOTION (Ng/Rudney) to approve the interdisciplinary studies program changes as presented. The motion passed unanimously (11-0-0).

### **Division of the Humanities Course Clean-up**

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

This course was returned to the discipline at the October 9 meeting, requesting prerequisite consideration, because it is a 4xxx-level course directed at literature majors. It is now returning with the prerequisite changed to junior or senior status.

MOTION (Rudney/Ng) to approve Hum 4102. The motion passed unanimously (11-0-0).

### **Division of Science and Mathematics Catalog Program Changes and Course Clean-up**

#### **Natural Science**

Ng stated that all of the Natural Science courses are being deactivated. The program is being deactivated. Finzel asked if the program will no longer be in the catalog. Helsper answered that the subject will exist in ECAS in case someone wants to add a course in the future, but nothing will appear in the catalog when there are no courses to list.

#### **Biology, Chemistry, and Geology Minors**

Ng stated that changes in the three minors are the result of the additional credits in Chem 1101 and 1102.

#### **Statistics Minor**

A new elective has been added to the statistics minor.

MOTION (Cook/Ng) to approve the science and mathematics program changes as presented. The motion passed unanimously (11-0-0).

Submitted by Darla Peterson