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Curriculum minutes 11/20/2014

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**UMM CURRICULUM COMMITTEE
2014-15 MEETING #10 Minutes
November 20, 2014, 10:50 a.m., MFR**

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

Members Absent: Pieranna Garavaso, Maryanna Kroska, and Sonja Swanson

Visitors: Mary Elizabeth Bezanson, Nancy Helsper, Kellie Meehlhause, Heather Peters, and Jeri Squier

In these minutes: Liberal Arts for the Human Services (LAHS) name change and program changes

Announcements

Finzel reminded the committee members to update their Google calendars or share their spring semester schedules with Darla, if they haven't already. In two weeks, the committee will meet to consider EDP proposals. He would also like to firm up the membership for the task force that will look at credit count in majors. Their work will be done during spring semester, and will report back to this committee at the end of the semester.

Approval of Minutes – November 13, 2014

Chollett stated that she was unable to attend the November 13 meeting because of health reasons, and would like to comment on the issue of the number of credits in the Liberal Arts for the Human Services (LAAS) major and minor. It was stated that there is no incentive to take the minor when it would only take one more class to have a major. That was not quite accurate. The LAAS majors take a capstone course that minors are not required to take. Majors are also required to take one more 4-credit elective, and each student takes a 1-credit LAAS course every semester in residence. They can accumulate up to 8 credits of that course, but only 4 credits count toward the major. These additional requirements have to be factored into the total credits. It was also mentioned that, given the uniqueness of the LAAS program, our majors are often double or triple majors. In the time in which she has been coordinator of the LAAS program, only one student has taken a single major in LAAS. All of this will need to be considered when the task force looks at credits. Ng stated that there is no explanation on the Form A that mentions the extra work in the major.

MOTION (Cook/Ng) to approve the November 13, 2014 minutes. Minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Liberal Arts for the Human Services (LAHS) name change and program changes

To continue the discussion that began at the October 30 meeting, Finzel welcomed Dr. Heather Peters to answer questions regarding the proposed name change to the LAHS major, the new proposed HMSV course, and the various sub-plans in the major. Some communication around this proposal was lost during the division chair change and having the author of the proposal present at this meeting is helpful. He asked what other name changes were considered and what our peer institutions are doing.

Peters stated that she had looked at the Morris 14 and COPLAC institutions and identified 38 such programs at 22 of the 33 institutions. No other institution had the name LAHS. The names varied, but the most common was human services. It was the most overarching umbrella term used. Other names were more specific, such as criminal justice program, or social work. Human services seemed to be the broadest for the area under consideration.

Finzel asked if the primary motivation for the name change is clarity. Peters answered that students with an LAHS degree, when applying to graduate school or trying to find internships, are often asked to explain LAHS to interviewers. When they do so, the response is usually “oh, yeah, that’s human services.” Human services is widely used and understood. Professor Emeritus Eric Klinger told her that, when LAHS was created, they didn’t think that Campus Assembly would approve the major if it was called human services.

Finzel stated that he liked the idea of an introductory course to the major, but asked if Peters was confident that there was sufficient staffing for the course going forward. Peters answered that anthropology, sociology, psychology, and political science will provide faculty members who will teach the class in rotation.

Finzel asked Peters to talk about the process in which eight sub-plans were reduced to the four proposed. Peters answered that the final four were chosen based on courses that have been offered, comparison institutions, and feedback from surveyed current and past LAHS coordinators and students. The original eight proposed sub-plans were general, criminal justice, health promotion, human development, organizational leadership, school psychology, social justice, and social work. To reduce the number of sub-plans, Peters asked discipline coordinators who oversaw core classes in the proposed sub-plans to provide feedback on the availability of the classes, specifically how often the courses can be taught and if they could be offered if the current instructor leaves. Based on the responses, organizational leadership and criminal justice were withdrawn from consideration. Six sub-plans remained.

Then she contacted the sociology/anthropology discipline coordinator, Dr. Rebecca Dean, because sociology/anthropology and psychology are the main contributors to the current LAHS program. They decided to drop the social work sub-plan because the name might be misleading, since it would not be accredited by the Council on Social Work Education and the discipline thought that it would be confusing to students interested in becoming social workers. Cook asked how they could become social workers. Peters answered that there are two ways to become a licensed social worker: 1) go to an undergraduate, 5-year accredited program; or 2) get an undergraduate degree and then get a 2-year degree in social work and get a license. One can do a masters in social work after graduating. There is also an option to take a merit exam to become a licensed social worker in a rural area where there is a high need for social workers. A social worker cannot do therapy like a licensed social worker. Bezanson added that a social worker could always pursue a graduate degree while they are working in the field.

Peters stated that the final sub-plan to be removed was the school psychology sub-plan because some of the classes overlapped with the human development track in psychology and the chair of the Division of Education had concerns over the title of the track being misleading to students. The general feedback regarding the health promotion sub-plan was positive, but it is believed that this program would be more appropriate as an interdisciplinary major in biology, sport studies and athletics, and psychology, rather than trying to fit it under human services.

Four sub-plans remained: general, social justice, human development, and criminal justice. The criminal justice sub-plan became an option last year when new classes were added to the political

science major as a result of the hiring of a new tenure-track faculty member in 2013. Jennifer Lund, UMM Campus Police Lieutenant, requested a meeting last year with the chair of the Division of the Social Sciences, to talk about the possibility of offering a class in criminal justice. The sociology, anthropology, political science, and psychology disciplines were all in favor of offering the criminal justice sub-plan.

Finzel asked how the transformation of the LAHS major to the HMSV major resulted in a smaller credit count. Peters stated that they felt that 60 credits was on the higher end and they wanted to lower it so students could take a wider variety of classes. The reduction comes in the number of required electives in some sub-plans, like criminal justice. Finzel asked if there is an overlap in sub-plans similar to the psychology major. In some ways, why not offer a sub-plan in psychology rather than in human services? Peters answered that, as a discipline, psychology discussed doing sub-plans but wanted psychology to stay a well-rounded major rather than breaking into sub-plans. If the sub-plan were in psychology, a student would have to take six different classes to also have a human development major. Ericksen added that six is the minimum number of classes that would make up the difference between the human development major and the psychology major with a human development sub-plan.

Demetriou suggested that the social justice sub-plan include the following required elective: Phil 3121 – Political Philosophy. He also suggested that the following two courses be added to the additional electives: Phil 2111 – Introductory Ethics, and Phil 2113 – International and Biomedical Ethics. These are courses that are central to a social justice program. No other courses deal exclusively with social justice. Peters stated that she would be happy to amend the proposal to include those courses. He also asked why a public speaking course is included in the required electives. Bezanson replied that CMR 3411 – Intercultural Communication Theory and Research doesn't deal with public speaking. If a graduate in social justice is going to be an activist, communicating with people will be necessary.

Finzel stated that it is clear that the process included working very collaboratively with disciplines within the Division of the Social Sciences, but has there been communication with other divisions as well? Peters answered that she communicated with the communication, media, and rhetoric discipline. She also discussed school psychology with the chair of the Division of Education. Bezanson suggested adding CMR 1062 – Introduction to Interpersonal and Group Communication to the required electives in the criminal justice sub-plan. That would be helpful in understanding the difficulty of exertion of power and control over other human beings and communicating with people behind or in front of bars.

Peters stated that hidden electives has been brought up so she had her assistant go through the program and look at the prerequisites for the required classes, which she shared with the committee. Finzel noted that there is a pathway to keep within 54-56 credits and it is the student's option to add more. Bezanson asked if the four-year plan is general or if there is one for every major and sub-plan, showing when to take the prerequisites to be sure to stay on track. Ericksen answered that four-year plans cannot show every possibility with all of the elective options, and that's a challenge for advisers who have to work with students to carefully plan. Crabtree asked if there is a most likely path offered for four-year plans, given the variety of electives. Peters answered that, like all majors, she is sure human services would offer a four-year plan.

Bezanson asked if students graduating with a major in criminal justice could go directly into criminal justice work. Peters answered that there are many jobs in the criminal justice sector. Bezanson asked if criminal justice might then be considered vocational in that sense. Peters noted that some students majoring in criminal justice go on to pre-law. Also, criminal justice majors are

often interested in preventative work in communities or helping people reintegrate into society. These are not the same people with a vocational aspiration of becoming a prison guard. Bezanson noted that people outside of the social sciences may see dropping “liberal arts” from the name as a means to a more vocational or applied major.

Finzel asked why accounting is included in criminal justice. Peters answered that a background that includes an understanding of accounting would be a good broad-based, liberal arts way of approaching white collar crime. Crabtree noted that a similar argument could be made for biology courses for forensics in criminal justice. Ng stated that we don’t really have a criminal justice major, but moving forward, we can tell potential students that we have a sub-plan in the human services major. Peters stated that it would be very helpful to students. Having the sub-plans gives students some direction. Currently, there is no coherent theme that supports all of the classes.

Peters addressed what it will do to the major in numbers. In 2008 through 2014, there were 67-76 LAHS majors per year. In regards to what is going to happen in the future, we may lose a lot of psychology students who will now have a hard time adding it as a double-major with psychology. On the other hand, we hope to attract a lot of criminal justice majors.

Finzel stated that one concern he has is that sub-plans lock the discipline into offering a specific curriculum year-after-year. It poses a challenge when replacing someone who goes on sabbatical or moves on. It will affect psychology and sociology the most. Has the discipline considered it? Peters answered that is why they specifically went with required electives. They looked at each faculty member who taught courses. Out of five required electives, four are taught by different faculty, so if one goes on sabbatical, there will be enough faculty remaining to teach.

MOTION (Rudney/Cook) to approve changing the name of liberal arts for the human services (LAHS) to human services. The motion passed unanimously (10-0-0).

The committee then considered the new course proposed for the human services major:

HMSV 2001 – Introduction to Human Services (4 cr; SS)

Peters noted that four current faculty will teach the course (one faculty from psychology, one from anthropology/sociology, and two from political science). All four were involved in creating the course description. If approved, they will meet to determine who will teach it first.

MOTION (Ng/Crabtree) to approve the new course HMSV 2001. The motion passed unanimously (10-0-0).

The four proposed sub-plans were then considered. It was agreed to add CMR 1062 – Introduction to Interpersonal and Group Communication as a required elective to the criminal justice sub-plan; to add Phil 3121 – Political Philosophy as a required elective to the social justice sub-plan; to add Phil 2111- Introductory Ethics, and Phil – 2113 – International and Biomedical Ethics as additional electives to the social justice sub-plan.

MOTION (Rudney/Ericksen) to approve the four sub-plans for the new human services major (general, criminal justice, human development, and social justice). The motion passed unanimously (10-0-0).

Submitted by Darla Peterson