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Curriculum minutes 11/20/2015

Curriculum Committee

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UMM CURRICULUM COMMITTEE
2015-16 MEETING #5 Minutes
November 20, 3:30 p.m., MFR

Members Present: Bart Finzel (chair), Pieranna Garavaso, Arne Kildegaard, Peh Ng, Gwen Rudney, Tracey Anderson, Stephen Crabtree, Kellie Meehlhause, Christi Perkinson, Lauren Velde, Kerri Barnstable, and Judy Korn

Members Absent: Sarah Ashkar, Mary Elizabeth Bezanson, Jennifer Deane, Madison Hughes, and Emily Sunderman

Visitors: Nancy Helsper and Jeri Squier

In these minutes: Approval of Courses; and EDP Review Committee Recommendation

Announcements

Finzel announced that the committee will meet next semester on Mondays, every other week, beginning January 25, 2:15 to 3:15 PM. The flexibility of members to allow for a time when all members can attend is appreciated.

Approval of Minutes of November 13, 2015 Meeting

MOTION (Ng/Meehlhause) to approve the November 13, 2015 minutes. Minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote, with two revisions.

Course Approvals

Division of the Humanities

CMR 3433 – Communication, Power, and Identity (4 cr, HUM)

CMR 4123 – Rhetoric of Advertising (4 cr, HUM)

Garavaso explained that both CMR courses are provisionally approved courses. CMR 3433 is in the area of expertise of a new faculty member. They are asking for regular approval of both courses.

Kildegaard asked if it is a common practice to have a 4xxx-level course with only a single 1xxx-level prerequisite. Garavaso answered that it is common in philosophy. Members questioned whether the course content of CMR 4123 will be limited to the print media, or if it will expand to other advertising media, in which case the description should not specify print only. Garavaso offered to ask the discipline to clarify their intent.

MUS 3107 – Music in 20th-Century America (2 cr, FA)

MUS 3108 – Intellectual Foundations of Western Music (2 cr, HUM)

MUS 3109 – Analysis of Popular Music (2 cr, HUM)

Garavaso explained that the music discipline has a group of new faculty who are revising the curriculum in order to make it more flexible for students. For example, music will go down to 40 credits as they have decided to offer more 2-credit courses.

Rudney stated that trying to add flexibility in the major is commendable. However, the three new courses are all western music, without adding diversity. Garavaso noted that a faculty member teaches a course in world music. Ng stated that she is happy to see another course (MUS 3107) with the FA Gen Ed. It will be helpful when she is advising students.

MOTION (Rudney/Anderson) to approve the Humanities course changes, with the exception of CMR 4123.

The motion passed unanimously (9-0-0).

Division of the Science and Mathematics

BIOL 4334 – Forest Ecology (4 cr)

STAT 4601 – Biostatistics (4 cr)

Ng explained that BIOL 4334 is a new course being taught next semester by a new faculty member. It is going forward for regular approval. It involves the study of the interaction of the forest and species around it. STAT 4601 is being revised to more accurately reflect how frequently it is being offered. It has been listed as periodically but has been offered every spring and the change will be made to reflect that.

MOTION (Kildegaard/Rudney) to approve the Science and Mathematics course changes.

The motion passed unanimously (9-0-0).

EDP Review Committee Recommendation

Finzel stated that the review committee consisted of Meehlhause, Garavaso, Velde, and Deane, with Meehlhause as chair. He asked the chair to report on their recommendation. Meehlhause stated that the review committee had an enormous task this year to review 27 proposals, asking for \$74,500 in funding, with only \$48,000 to disperse. Nine of the proposals were rejected and 18 were approved, 7 funded by the Educational Development Program (EDP), 6 funded by the Native American Student Success (NASS) Project grant, and 5 funded by the Cargill Foundation's Sustainable Leaders of the Future (SLF) grant. With the exception of the NASS funds, which had about \$3,000 left over, all of the funds were exhausted.

The 18 courses that are recommended for funding included:

1. Siobhan Bremer, Theatre Arts

Request: \$2,000

Recommendation: \$1,500

Category of Funding: NASS

Project: *Native American Drama in Oral Interpretation*

The reduced amount is proposed because the course is a revision, adding a service learning component where they will work with area school systems to set up a Native American theatre program. It was strongly recommended that Bremer communicate with the American Indian Studies coordinator as well as collaborate with professor Gercken's American Indian drama course.

2. David G. Brown, Economics

Request: \$3,000

Recommendation: \$1,500

Category of Funding: EDP

Project: *Strategic Firm Interaction Modeling Presentation*

The committee recommends \$1,500 because the course has been offered once and is being revised.

3. Michael Bryant, Education

Request: \$3,000

Recommendation: \$3,000

Category of Funding: EDP

Project: *Gender & Sexuality Issues in Sport*

4. Michael Bryant, Education

Request: \$3,000

Recommendation: \$3,000

Category of Funding: NASS

Project: *Sport and Indigenous Cultures*

Bryant submitted two applications. Two other faculty members did as well, and only one was approved in those cases. An exception is recommended in this case because one proposal falls under the EDP category of a course proposed by a new faculty member, and the second one falls under the NASS funding category. Both applications were strong enough to merit recommendation. Finzel agreed that, given that there is additional, one-time only funding, the exception has merit.

5. Adam W. Coon, Humanities

Request: \$3,000

Recommendation: \$3,000

Category of Funding: NASS

Project: *Contemporary Native Nations' Media and Literature of the Americas*

Kildegaard asked if Coon wasn't needed more in the Spanish literature area. Garavaso answered that his expertise and focus is in Native American indigenous tribes that speak Spanish.

6. Jennifer Kolpacoff Deane, Social Sciences

Request: \$3,000

Recommendation: \$3,000

Category of Funding: SLF

Project: *Environment and History in the Premodern World*

Garavaso noted that Deane stepped out of the room and was not present when her application was discussed. The application was beautifully written and the subcommittee would recommend that, with approval, it be posted on the website as an example of a well-written proposal along with those of Michael Bryant, Ann DuHamel, and Rachel Johnson.

7. Dan Demetriou, Humanities

Request: \$3,000

Recommendation: \$1,500

Category of Funding: SLF

Project: *Tailoring Environmental Ethics to UMM's Needs and Culture*

Garavaso noted that they are planning on doing a complete overhaul of the environmental ethics course to make the subject clearer and tailored to UMM.

8. Ann DuHamel, Humanities

Request: \$3,000

Recommendation: \$3,000

Category of Funding: EDP

Project: *Piano from Bach to Jazz*

Meehlhause stated that this proposal was exemplary. Great detail was provided on the development of the course and how it will be used to appeal to students who are outside of the discipline. This will carry a needed FA Gen Ed.

9. Becca Gercken, Humanities

Request: \$3,000

Recommendation: \$3,000

Category of Funding: NASS

Project: *American Indian Poetry and Drama*

The committee recommends that Gercken consider collaborating with Bremer's Oral Interpretation course.

10. Joshua Johnson, Humanities

Request: \$3,000

Recommendation: \$3,000

Category of Funding: SLF

Project: *Environmentalism in Fantasy and Sci-Fi Literature*

This new course will deal with environmental education and the relationship between culture and sustainability. Velde noted that it is also a much needed IC course.

11. Rachel Johnson, Science and Mathematics

Request: \$3,000

Recommendation: \$3,000

Category of Funding: EDP

Project: *Scientific and Cultural Perspectives of Vaccines and Epidemics*

This course will also be a much needed IC course. The course fits under the written communication criteria and will culminate in a community brochure of some sort.

12. Benjamin Narvaez, Social Sciences

Request: \$1,500

Recommendation \$1,500

Category of Funding: NASS

Project: *History of Race and Ethnicity in Latin America (HIST 3614)*

13. Denise Odello, Humanities

Request: \$3,000

Recommendation \$3,000

Category of Funding: NASS

Project: *Music Core Curriculum revision: "Music in Twentieth Century America"*

This revision will add a Native American music component to the core curriculum.

14. Ted Pappenfus, Science and Mathematics

Request: \$3,000

Recommendation: \$1,500

Category of Funding: SLF

Project: *Online Chemistry Course for Non-science Majors*

Meehlhause stated that since the course is a revision of an existing course, the committee recommends the reduced award. The course will be available in the summer. The course will be a good course for non-science majors, and will cover sustainability issues. Garavaso stated that the proposal was very well written but the committee had an initial concern about the liability of doing an online course with labs. His explanation that he will utilize proven methods successfully implemented by others teaching online courses convinced them that he could do it. Garavaso added that Pappenfus is so good that the committee thought if he couldn't do it, nobody can. Korn noted that she has acquired the help of biology and chemistry disciplines in reviewing transfer courses with labs online. There have been a few we could accept for transfer for science with lab.

15. Jimmy Schryver, Humanities

Request: \$1,500

Recommendation: \$1,500

Category of Funding: EDP

Project: *Athens, Art and Theatre: New Interdisciplinary Course in the Art History Major*

Meehlhause stated that this falls under the revised category because he is splitting his current 3xxx-level course "Art and Archaeology of Ancient Greece" into two separate 2xxx-level, 4-credit courses. Velde stated that the 3xxx-level course will tie theatre and art history together by

being offered when theatre is performing an ancient Greek play. This course will be restricted to art history majors primarily. The 2xxx-level course will be open to majors and non-majors.

16. Nadezhda Sotirova, Humanities

Request: \$3,000

Recommendation: \$3,000

Category of Funding: SLF

Project: *Knowing land, place, and ourselves: Local cultural discourses on nature and the environment, from the native to the global*

This course covers cross-cultural communication, environmental discourses, as well as indigenous practices emphasizing the spirited nature of environments and recent global ideological shifts. It could fall under NASS funding as well, but the committee chose the SLF category for funding. Garavaso stated that, again, there is an IS focus to the course that leads the committee to strongly recommend communication with other relevant disciplines before applications are submitted. Meehlhause noted that it is not a requirement and wasn't necessary in the past, but the indication is that there will be more interdisciplinary courses in the future. Finzel stated that he will note that in the call for proposals next year.

17. Tisha Turk, Humanities

Request: \$3,000

Recommendation: \$3,000

Category of Funding: EDP

Project: *Writing with Digital Media*

This is a new course that meets the written communication SLO. Finzel asked if this is an English class. Velde answered that the committee recommends communicating with the CMR coordinator. Finzel noted that it sounds more like CMR. Kildegaard stated that he was not sure that written communication was intended to be construed as broadly as digital media. Garavaso responded that digital media is the way in which a lot of people communicate now.

18. Heather Waye, Science and Mathematics

Request: \$3,000

Recommendation: \$3,000

Category of Funding: EDP

Project: *Biology elective on comparative animal physiology*

Meehlhause explained that the committee thought they only had \$2,000 remaining to award from EDP funds, so they recommended in their written report a \$2,000 award. After the recommendation was sent to the Dean's Office, it was pointed out to them that there were sufficient funds remaining to fully fund this request, which they now recommend.

This proposal is discipline-specific but also fits a need within the discipline. It will impact a large population of students. Ng added that this course will be taken by a lot of pre-health majors and a lot of other majors outside of biology. Meehlhause noted that the course will also generate artifacts to assist with assessment, which also falls under the first category of funding.

Finzel asked if there were other proposals that were more closely aligned to the criteria or well-crafted that would have been recommended if more funding was available. Garavaso answered that there wasn't always agreement between members, but they looked at the quality of the proposals as well as how well they fit the criteria. Meehlhause added that for some that weren't funded, a common reason was that there was insufficient explanation of course development.

Finzel noted that the total funding of \$45,000 includes one-time funding that will not be available next year from SFL and NASS. However, since \$3,000 was not spent from NASS, he will ask the PI of the NASS grant to ask the program officer if that amount can be carried forward to next year for EDP funding.

MOTION (Ng/Anderson) to approve recommendations of the EDP Review Committee. The motion passed unanimously (9-0-0).

Finzel thanked the review committee for its tremendous effort. Garavaso stated that she was uncertain about having the division chairs write a recommendation on the applications. This is the first time she was able to see what the division chairs write and it was useful for the committee. She was wondering whether it should be allowed to be seen by the faculty member, however, since division chairs want to be supportive of their faculty. Faculty are allowed to see what the division chair recommends on the Single Semester Leave applications, but she questioned whether it should be shared for the EDP application. Ng answered that the direction on the EDP application for the division chair is to comment on how the course relates to the curriculum. That's what she comments on. She doesn't evaluate the application and can't say whether it is exemplary or awesome because she doesn't see the other applications and it doesn't matter to her. The EDP Review committee is charged with evaluating the course.

Other announcements

Rudney thanked the members of the Curriculum Committee who participated in the accreditation review that the Education program just went through. Unofficially, both teams recommended approval. The Curriculum Committee was particularly impressive because our students speak up and say what needs to be said. It was a lot of work and the participation and support of this committee was appreciated.

Submitted by Darla Peterson