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Curriculum minutes 01/23/2017

Curriculum Committee

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UMM CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

2016-17 MEETING #10 Minutes

January 23, 2017, 2:30 p.m., Moccasin Flower Room

Members Present: Bart Finzel (chair), Arne Kildegaard, Pieranna Garavaso, Peh Ng, Gwen Rudney, Tracey Anderson, Mary Elizabeth Bezanson, Stephen Crabtree, Jennifer Deane, Kellie Meehlhause, Maggie Elinson, Christi Perkinson, Stephanie Ferrian, and Kerri Barnstuble

Members Absent: Jessica Gardner, and Judy Korn

Visitors: Nancy Helsper

In these minutes: Global Village Gen Ed Requirements Discussion

Announcements

Finzel announced that academic divisions will be hosting conversations on the Global Village set of GenEd requirements within the next two weeks. He has also asked the student members to work with MCSA to have the Global Village conversation with students. The committee will not meet on January 30 or February 6, and will begin meeting again on February 13, after all of the conversations have been held.

Approval of Minutes from Meeting #9, November 30, 2016

MOTION (Garavaso/Meehlhause) to approve the November 30, 2016 minutes as presented. Minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Global Village GenEd Requirements

Finzel reminded the committee that he was tasked at the committee's last meeting to draft a set of questions that will help frame conversations with divisions and the student body. He was also requested to offer background and context for the discussions. He shared the following and asked if anyone had anything to add, delete, or clarify.

After discussion the questions were revised and the resulting document is shown below:

General Education Discussion Spring 2017

Background: The 2010 accreditation report of the HLC evaluation team stated that our "general education requirements need review and reaffirmation." This review has involved several components. In 2011, the Curriculum Committee (CC) completed a whitepaper entitled "Possible Approaches to General Education on the University of Minnesota, Morris campus" that concluded "a distribution model for general education remains the most appropriate for UMM students." In 2011-12, the CC hosted six campus forums to discuss UMM's general education program. Forums were held in each academic division, one was hosted by MCSA, and one was targeted at UMM staff. Forum participants were asked:

- What aspects of the program were working or not working?
- What aspects were redundant?
- What aspects were critical to the success of the program?

Minutes from these forums are summarized in the PDF document “Summary Notes GenEd Forums, Fall 2011” at <http://www.morris.umn.edu/committees/Curriculum/>.

While several areas of concern were evident in these conversations, there was little evidence of support for a radical re-imagining of the current distribution model of our general education requirements. Rather, most suggestions involved incremental changes. Some of the most common themes—mandating writing for all students—rethinking the way we present general education to students, were at least partially addressed by changes to UMM’s writing requirement, advising materials, and course syllabi in 2013-2015.

Another set of issues expressed in the general education forums concerned the thematic material present (or absent) from the content areas within Global Village (HDiv, Env, IP, E/CR). The CC hopes to address these issues this year. To do so, we have asked the academic divisions and MCSA to host conversations concerning Global Village.

Current Requirement:

The Global Village: To increase students’ understanding of the growing interdependence among nations, peoples, and the natural world. Two courses, one from each of two areas, are required:

- 1. Human Diversity (HDiv):** To increase students’ understanding of individual and group differences (e.g., race, gender, class) and their knowledge of the traditions and values of various groups in the United States.
- 2. People and the Environment (Env):** To increase students’ understanding of the interrelatedness of human society and the natural world.
- 3. International Perspective (IP):** To increase students’ systematic understanding of national cultures substantially different from those in which they received their prior schooling.
- 4. Ethical and Civic Responsibility (E/CR):** To broaden and develop students’ capacity to question and reflect upon their own and society’s values and critical responsibilities, and to understand forces, such as technology, that cause them to modify these views and often mandate creation of new ways to resolve legal, social, and scientific issues.

Workshop Questions:

- Are you satisfied with the current structure of Global Village that allows students to choose two of the four areas?
- Are these four areas within Global Village still essential to our curriculum?
- If you believe they are essential, should all students be required to take courses with content in all these areas?
- If you believe they are not all essential, how would you change them?
- Could these content areas be addressed in courses that also carry another general education designator?

The revised document is on Google Docs for people to use in guiding the conversations. Kildegaard stated that he will also create a flowchart that shows the outcome and implications of the anticipated answers to the questions for use at his division meeting. He will share it with others who would like to use it as well.

Finzel asked for volunteers to take notes at the meetings. On January 25, Bezanson will take notes for Education; on January 26, Rudney will take notes for the Social Sciences and Ferrian

will take notes for Science and Math; on January 30, Finzel will take notes for the Humanities; and the student members will find a volunteer to take notes at the student meeting on February 6.

Submitted by Darla Peterson