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MINUTES-1997-98 CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING #9

February 10, 1998; 8:00 a.m.; Behmler Conference Room

Present: Asmus, Farrell, Frenier, Korth, Lee, Leroux, McIntosh, Nylander, Schuman

Absent: Ballou, Beiswenger, Ellis, Kissock, Taylor, Thielke

Guests: None

[In these minutes: continued discussion of semester GER designator proposals]

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Schuman announced a "last call" for revisions to the semester curricula. The deadline for proposals is March 30, 1998. Division Chairs are asked to notify disciplines of this last opportunity for making changes before the first semester bulletin is produced. A transition course catalog, advisers' handbook, and student handbook will be produced this spring to help people make decisions for the last year of quarters. The 1999-2001 UMM Catalog will be produced in the spring of 1999; the deadline in the Twin Cities for making curricular changes is the end of spring quarter 1998.

CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF SEMESTER GER DESIGNATIONS:

Korth reported back on a question the CC had asked of the computer science discipline. The CC had asked the discipline to consider designating CSci 3901--Seminar as "Hum" since the discipline had indicated that the course belongs in that category but they wanted majors to take a course outside the discipline to fulfill "Hum." The faculty in computer science have decided to designate CSci 3901 as "Hum" and then to change the major requirements to include an additional "Hum" course. Mooney asked if a revised bulletin copy proposal would be forthcoming. Korth said that it would.

Anthropology

Schuman noted that the CC had been discussing the anthropology GER proposal at the last meeting. Lee said CC members should have received a revised response from Chollett about Anth 1101 as a "Sci-L" course. This instructor is one of the most dedicated instructors that Lee knows. She has made additional requirements and even considered moving the course to the 2xxx level because of the degree of difficulty. If there were 20-30 students in the class, she could teach all of the labs herself, but if there were 70 students, she could not possibly be present in all of the labs. The lab TAs are under her direct supervision and she spends 2-3 hours per week with the TAs.

Schuman noted that the language in the response which had been questioned was changed in the revised response.

Farrell said he was satisfied with the explanation.

McIntosh stated that, if the CC accepts this proposal, then it is accepting a lower standard for lab instruction than any other institution with which he has been associated. Lee thought the campus should have a written standard for lab courses for the entire campus. Schuman said the CC could form a subcommittee to propose a definition for what is meant by a lab course. That would be true for any of the other GER designators as well. Farrell thought the idea of having extensive criteria for each GER category had been abandoned with the new General Education Program. There should be some standards, but he is not in favor of stopping the approval process at this point in order to do that.

Lee noted that Nylander had commented at the last meeting that she was familiar with some classes in the Science and Mathematics Division where instructors were not present at all times in the lab. This anthropology course is not the only

course which should have to hold to such standards. McIntosh said that Lee should inform the Dean and the Division Chair if he has information that faculty members are not carrying out their duties. Lee said he was only making the point that some Science and Math labs are like the anthropology lab. McIntosh said he objected to that implication.

Schuman said he believed all of the arguments had been presented at this point. He did not think that further discussion would change people's opinions about this course nor did he think that the CC could deduce here and now what constitutes a lab course.

Schuman wondered about the title change he had suggested for Anth 3411. Lee said the faculty member had proposed "Seminar in Anthropological and Qualitative Methodology" but after hearing the suggestion to remove the "and," he is willing to make that change.

Schuman suggested that the CC have a separate vote on Anth 1101. Leroux noted that there are two psychology courses being proposed for "Sci-L." Should the CC discuss those courses before voting on the anthropology course? Schuman said the CC could come back to anthropology later, if need be; he didn't want to assume that there would be difficulty with the psychology lab courses since there is a tradition of those courses being accepted in Science and Math.

MOTION (Understood): To approve Anth 1101 as "Sci-L."

VOTE: In favor--6; opposed--2; abstentions--0 (6-2-0).

MOTION (Understood): To approve the remainder of the anthropology GER proposal.

VOTE: In favor--7; opposed--0; abstentions--1 (7-0-1).

[McIntosh left the meeting at this point.]

Geography

Lee noted that Geog 3111 is an ITV course taught by a T.C. faculty member.

MOTION (Frenier, Leroux): To approve the geography GER proposal.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor (7-0-0).

Economics

Korth commented that the interpretation of "M/SR" by economics faculty seems quite different from his understanding. He does not believe that they construct proofs in those courses. Lee said those courses are very statistically oriented. Korth read aloud from the GER goals for M/SR:

II.C. Mathematical/Symbolic Reasoning: To strengthen students' ability to formulate abstractions, construct proofs, and utilize symbols in formal systems.

Korth noted that some of the mathematics courses were not given "M/SR" designators because they do not meet the goals. Schuman wondered if that question should be sent back to the discipline. Korth said yes. Lee wondered if all three aspects of the goals had to be present in each course. Schuman said that is the way the goal is written. Korth said he did not want it to appear that he is protecting some GER categories for certain disciplines. Schuman said he was pleased to see the variety of GER designators in the economics proposal.

Leroux said it was not obvious from the course titles that 3141 and 3142 are international. Lee said those courses deal with modernization and that involves other nations.

MOTION (Understood): To approve the economics GER proposal, pending clarification on the "M/SR"

classification of 3501, 4111, 4112.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor (7-0-0).

History

Schuman asked if there were questions about the history proposal. There were none.

MOTION (Understood): To approve the history GER proposal.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor (7-0-0).

Management

Lee noted that management also had an "M/SR" course. Korth said he had the same question about whether proofs are constructed in Mgmt 3301. Lee noted that 3301 may eventually be taught by a math faculty member. Is this course still a problem? Korth said he still has the same question. Leroux wondered what Lee meant. Lee said the Social Sciences Division has had difficulty finding an instructor to teach that course and has been negotiating to have a math faculty member teach it.

Schuman wondered what was meant by "constructing a proof." Korth said the process begins with given information and proceeds, step by step, with rationales to get to the desired result. Schuman wondered if one could prove in such a manner, say, that capitalism is better than Marxism. Korth said no. Schuman wondered if there must be mathematical axioms involved in each step. Korth said either mathematical axioms or the rules of logic. Schuman said it will be interesting to see the response to this question.

MOTION (Understood): To approve the management GER proposal, pending clarification of the "M/SR" classification of 3301.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor (7-0-0).

Political Science

Schuman asked if the GER of the topics courses would vary by topic. Lee said yes.

MOTION (Understood): To approve the political science GER proposal.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor (7-0-0).

Psychology

Farrell asked about the "Sci-L" courses, 3201 and 3211. Lee said these are bona fide lab courses taught by Kemble and Meek. These courses have been accepted by the Science and Math Division for years and are an integral part of the biology program. Schuman wondered if these were the courses where rats' brains are dissected. Lee said that they are. Schuman noted that the instructor is in these labs and the labs do last a long time. He wondered if there were other questions.

Korth questioned the "M/SR" category for 3601. Are there proofs? Lee said the faculty will probably ask what construction of proofs means. Leroux wondered if math applications are not in general acceptable for "M/SR." Korth said that proofs could be done in a math applications course. Schuman said he had seen examples of that in Peh Ng's presentation.

MOTION (Understood): To approve the psychology GER proposal, pending clarification of the "M/SR"

classification of 3601.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor (7-0-0).

Sociology

Schuman asked if there were questions about the sociology proposal. There were none.

MOTION (Understood): To approve the sociology GER proposal.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor (7-0-0).

Education

Schuman asked if there were questions about the education discipline proposal. There were none.

MOTION (Understood): To approve the education discipline GER proposal.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor (7-0-0).

Secondary Education

Schuman noted that three SeEd courses are being proposed for the GER.

MOTION (Understood): To approve the secondary education GER proposal.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor (7-0-0).

Elementary Education

Schuman noted that elementary education has exactly the same configuration as secondary. There will be some title changes in this discipline.

Farrell wondered, since elementary education is a major, why so few courses have been designated. Mooney pointed out the rationale on the bottom of the page.

MOTION (Farrell, Leroux): To send the elementary education GER proposal back to the discipline asking why there are so few GER designators.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor (7-0-0).

Wellness and Sport Science

Lee wondered if Fitness for Life has enough social science content to justify the "SS" designation. WSS 1052 is a little more obvious. Schuman said the CC could ask Kissock for an answer to that question.

MOTION (Understood): To approve the wellness and sport science GER proposal, pending an answer to the question about Fitness for Life.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor (7-0-0).

University College

Schuman asked if there were questions about the University College course proposal. Nylander asked about the 1-credit courses. Mooney noted that the 1-credit courses were being proposed for a skills category which does not have the 2-credit minimum.

Korth wondered why 1033 has the "E/CR" designation. Leroux said that course is part of the Summer Scholars program and is taught by Guyotte and Purdy. Lee said it involves the study of human rights. Schuman said the course covers social problems as well. Korth was satisfied with that explanation.

MOTION (Understood): To approve the University College course GER proposal.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor (7-0-0).

Schuman said that the CC would go back and look at the areas where there were questions at the next meeting. We will start with English. We have not had a response from some of the disciplines. He asked Mooney to send out to CC members copies of the table she had prepared showing the status of GER questions.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 17, at 8:00 a.m. in the Behmler Conference Room.

Meeting adjourned 9:00 a.m.
Submitted by Nancy Mooney

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