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MINUTES 2000-2001 CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING # 11

February 5, 2001 3:30 p.m. Behmler Conference Room

Present Korth, Thielke, Finzel, Lee, Evans, Urness, De Jager, Neuharth, Carlson, Mooney, Nellis and Gooch,
Absent Kissock, Behrens, Chabel and Ostrowski

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Korth asked for a motion to approve the minutes from January 22, 2001.

MOTION: To approve minutes from January 22, 2001.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor (9-0-0)

GER DESIGNATIONS AND 60 CREDIT LIMIT: Korth noted that this was discussed in November but without conclusion. On page 56 of the catalog, paragraph 3 under "General Education Requirements" excludes EIEd, SeEd, WSS and accounting courses in Mgmt from GER designations. There was considerable discussion why these are excluded and whether they should continue to be excluded. One member suggested that these courses had been excluded because they were thought to be more applied or professional rather than liberal arts. Another member asked whether the CC should go through each discipline and pick and choose courses we think don't fit. A member brought up that we are trying to protect the liberal arts content of a degree and these distinctions are especially important in evaluating transfer courses. Another member noted that accounting courses carry no GER designation because the discipline doesn't think that they fit any GER category. Korth suggested that any course with a GER designator could be allowed to count in the 60-credit GER limit. We have courses in Education and WSS that do have GER designators. The Registrar noted that these courses are counted in the 60-credit GER limit. Korth noted that then our catalog is not being followed. A member explained that then we should state in the catalog that courses in excluded categories that have GER designators would count. A member questioned if English courses without GER designators would still count in the 60 credit GER? The Registrar asserted that they must or else the consequences would be severe. Another member suggested appealing to the disciplines to not use the lack of GER designations to control enrollment. A member agreed this was inappropriate but also pointed out that some courses that are liberal arts just don't fit the GER categories we have defined. We shouldn't make the GER more restrictive. Another member stated that it is dangerous to say courses without GER designators are not in general education. Students should not be penalized because faculty do not put GER designators on courses.

Another member indicated that he had never seen the 60-credit general education requirement actually turn out to be a problem. A member noted that Directed Studies and Internships are not being counted and questioned if they should be counted? Another member also asked how often the 60-credit requirement is a problem. The Registrar noted that it is not a problem now. Another member noted that directed studies in ArtS are reserved for majors and since credits in the discipline of the major cannot count in the 60-credit requirement, there is no issue with directed studies. Another member noted that students with more than one major might have a problem. The former member noted that this has not been the case in ArtS and they almost all have double majors. After this discussion a motion was made:

MOTION (Carlson, Neuharth): to make an amendment to page 56 paragraph three, second sentence to read as follows: "with the exception of accounting courses in management and courses in elementary education, secondary education and wellness and sports science that do not have GER designators."

DISCUSSION: A member noted that even though he thought accounting courses are taught as a liberal arts course at UMM he would not propose to drop them from the current exception list. He would, however, not want internships included in the list of liberal arts courses. Another member indicated that if Directed Studies in ArtS were allowed to count in the 60, they may have a problem; to avoid designated performance courses, students might want to do ArtS directed studies without taking any other ArtS courses and the faculty don't want that. The former member indicated that

he is in favor of more stringent general education requirements to preserve liberal arts. Another member clarified that internships have not been counted in the 60 Credit GER but are counted in the 120 credit degree requirements. A member suggested adding internships to the exclusion statement. Another member indicated that Directed Studies are not allowed to count for specific GER categories. The member also noted that all courses should have a GER designator. Another member noted that a lack of GER designation apparently does not help to limit enrollment as some disciplines have hoped.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor (9-0-0)

A member indicated that she would like to see the list of UMM courses without GER designators. When asked whether this revision was to go into the new catalog, Korth replied that Campus Assembly approval was not possible in the time that would be required (four days).

MINIMUM NUMBER OF CREDITS IN A MAJOR: The next issue discussed was whether there should be a minimum number of credits in a major. This issue arose after review of the table showing the number of credits required in each major at UMM. The table was created in response to a request from the Senate Committee on Educational Policy. It was noticed that the major with the lowest number of required credits was LAAS. The table showed 24 credits required for a major in LAAS. In response to a question, the Registrar indicated that an old rule-of-thumb at UMM suggested that a major should require at least 45 quarter credits, which would translate to 30 semester credits. It was pointed out that LAAS has a hidden prerequisite of at least 8 credits of Spanish, which means the major effectively requires at least 32 credits. The committee members came quickly to a consensus that there is no further need to discuss credit minimums for majors. Several committee members did, however, express concerns about hidden prerequisites.

Meeting adjourned 4:32 p.m.
Submitted by Karen Van Horn

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