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MINUTES 2001-2002 CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING # 4

November 15, 2001, 8:00 a.m. Behmler Conference Room

Present Schwaller, Mullin, De Jager, Carlson, Thielke, Demos, Evans, Strand, Nellis, Hollerman, Mooney, Lee, Gooch, and DeVries
Absent Kissock, Urness, Korth, and Johnson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Schwaller asked for a motion to approve the minutes from October 18, 2001.

MOTION: (Carlson, DeJager) To approve minutes from October 18, 2001.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor (8-0-0)

PROPOSED APPROVAL OF COURSES:

Pol 3267 Variable Topics in American Politics: Courtroom Proceedings in American State and Federal Courts.
Pol 4800 Variable Topics in Political Science Research – Umbrella
Pol 4801 Variable Topics In Political Science Research: American Political Institutions
Pol 4802 Variable Topics In Political Science Research: American Political Process
Pol 4803 Variable Topics In Political Science Research: Comparative Politics
Pol 4804 Variable Topics In Political Science Research: International Relations
Pol 4805 Variable Topics In Political Science Research: Political Theory

A question was raised about the HUM GER designator for Pol 4805. Lee explained that the HUM designator was given because the theory portion of the course includes the field of philosophy and Social Science has tried to incorporate GER designators other than SS into the classes they offer. Schwaller questioned the rationale for offering the courses 4801-4805 as topic courses instead of regular courses. He noted the courses appear to be offered every other year. Mooney noted that Social Science typically offers their topics courses more than once and that Pol Sci tries to group their courses together through topic umbrellas. Schwaller questioned the system of approval for topic courses. There was considerable discussion among the members about the current and prior method of approval and offering of topic courses. Thielke noted that the earlier system did not issue specific numbers to each topics course and a course number would stay the same and the title and content would change. This system was not compatible with our current APAS system and it was difficult to know if a student repeated a course because the topic number stayed the same. APAS pulls information by course number not course name. A member observed that the old system had problems, which the new approval system should have corrected; however, now the new system has become cumbersome. A member also questioned the component of the courses as seminars; they do not appear to be a classroom setting. The member suggested that the courses might fit better under a directed study. Lee noted that these topics courses are to be capstone courses. A member noted that capstones would be senior projects and not a topics course series. Lee explained to the committee that offering these courses under a topic umbrella is simpler and clearer to the students. Another question arose about the number of courses that will be offered with approval of these courses in relation to the number of faculty. Lee stated that there are five faculty members in political science. Schwaller noted that if these six courses are approved there will be 48 credits for five faculty, that breaks down to nine courses for each faculty member and a course will be repeated only every two years. He raised his concern that if Political Science proposes one more course to be offered they will have to drop a course. Lee agreed with his observation. A member again brought up the issue of the seminar component requesting explanation. Lee explained that at present the students will be doing the class individually and not every research course is offered at the same time. The member questioned the meeting criteria of the class; will they meet as a group on a weekly basis? Lee noted that these details are being worked out. Another issue of concern for the courses Pol 4801-4805 is the number of credits for each course being at four. A member noted that there is nothing in the rationale on which to base valid judgment for the credits. There was more discussion on the various issues raised about the course and the approval process.

MOTION: (Demos, Evans) To approve Political Science courses.

Discussion: A member questioned what effect the two-year schedule of course offerings would have on a student's ability to graduate in a timely manner. Lee indicated that exceptions might have to be made; however the two-year cycle should not be a problem. Schwaller noted that one disadvantage is that the theory class will not be offered every year. He did question if faculty are going to do this in addition to or as a part of their regular load? Lee indicated that it will be built into the faculty's regular load and that is why it will be taught every other year. Members questioned that if the courses are capstone courses will they be changed next year?

VOTE: Motion failed (3-4-0)

Schwaller stated that the motion did not pass and the further information is requested from the Political Science discipline. The areas of questions to be addressed are:

- Capstone courses
- Curriculum
- Faculty teaching load
- Workings of the courses
- Justification of credits
- Course description

Lee will have the Political Science discipline address these issues and then it can be presented to the Committee again.

A member suggested pulling out Pol 3267 for separate approval.

MOTION: (Carlson, DeVries) To approve Pol 3267

VOTE: Approved unanimously (8-0-0)

Schwaller next brought to discussion the approval of the revised Psychology, English and Theater courses:

- Psy 3051s The Psychology of Women
- Psy 3211f Biological Psychology
- Psy 3221f Behavioral Biology of Women
- Psy 3403s Developmental Psychology III: Adulthood, Aging, and Death

Engl 2151 Writing with Technology

- Th 3201f Advanced Acting and Directing: Period Styles
- Th 3202s Advanced Acting and Directing: Realism and Alternatives

Nellis stated that the English and Theater courses were approved at Division Meetings the night before.

MOTION: (Carlson, Hollerman) To approve the Psychology, English and Theater courses.

Discussion: Schwaller questioned why there were no GER designators for the Theater courses. Nellis stated that the prerequisites for the Theater courses carry the GER. Schwaller explained that nonetheless, there is a policy on campus that all courses carry a GER designator.

MOTION: (Schwaller) To table approval of the Theater courses until a GER is assigned.

Discussion: A member stated that even though he agreed with Schwaller, the issue of GERs for every course is scheduled to be discussed at a later time and would vote to approve these courses now.

VOTE: Motion failed due to lack of second.

Discussion: A member questioned if the prereqs for Psy 3221 would also include any 4000 level biology course. Schwaller requested that this prereqs be added to the course. Lee concurred.

MOTION: (Schwaller, Nellis) To approve Psychology, revised as indicated above, English and Theater courses.

VOTE: Approved unanimously (8-0-0)

Meeting adjourned 8:50 a.m.
Submitted by Karen Van Horn

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