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Curriculum Committee Minutes

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9-11-2002

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University of Minnesota, Morris  
Morris, MN

**MINUTES 2002-2003 CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING # 1**

September 11, 2002, 8:00 a.m. Behmler Conference Room

Present John Schwaller, Mike Korth, Judy Kuechle, Jenny Nellis, Jooinn Lee, Mary Elizabeth Bezanson, Chris DeVries, Van Gooch, Tom Johnson, David Bohlander, Amanda Johnson, Chris Pifer, Danielle Stuard, Ruth Thielke, Dorothy DeJager, Clare Strand and Nancy Helsper

Absent None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Schwaller asked for a motion to approve the minutes from April 29, 2002

**MOTION:** (Korth, Bezanson) To approve minutes from April 29, 2002

**VOTE:** Unanimous in favor (11-0-0)

**DISCUSSION OF SCHEDULE:**

Curriculum Committee will continue to meet weekly, Wednesdays at 8:00 a.m. in the Behmler Conference Room. Catalog changes will be presented in the order of Humanities, Science & Math, Social Science, Education and IS & CE, allowing two weeks for each Division, finishing up on November 13, 2002. Schwaller explained that there would be other issues such as course approvals and ongoing issues of FYS and the Honors program that will also have to be addressed by CC this fall.

**FIRST YEAR SEMINAR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Schwaller expressed his concern to submit the proposal about the FYS program to Campus Assembly as soon as possible. Looking back in the minutes the motion was tabled and clarity was requested on the issues of topic and workload. The FYS steering committee addressed the issue of workload in its recommendations and Schwaller indicated he felt it best left to the FYS Steering Committee. The other issue is that of the topic; Human Diversity. Schwaller explained that the recommendation of the FYS Steering Committee is to keep this topic. Schwaller recommends the proposal from the FYS Steering Committee to continue FYS in its current form to Campus Assembly.

A member questioned what position might be held by anyone opposing this recommendation. Schwaller indicated that there are those who do not think we should have FYS at all, those who think the program should continue but not in its current form, and also those who might have concerns with campus resources.

Schwaller stated that FYS has been implemented in its current form for three years and felt it would be premature to change the program at this point. A member expressed concern that he does not think the program should continue in its current form because there is nothing academic gained through these courses and all activities could be experienced through student activities and/or advising. He went on to voice concern that the topic is not broad enough and is easier for some disciplines to teach. He thinks faculty and student involvement would be increased if faculty had more freedom. Schwaller explained that as one currently dealing with the topic issues he did not think it was restrictive and that most faculty can offer something under that topic. Another member agreed that academic focus could be an issue and sees this course as a transition course from high school to college, similar to the saying "all work and no play". If it is a sound program there will be a balance. A student member who has taken FYS stated that he gained more academic content from his first year seminar experience than from most other courses.

Schwaller stated it could continue to be on the agenda but felt a proposal should go to Campus Assembly as soon as possible. A member explained that the issue has been discussed extensively and she is comfortable sending it on to CA

and felt it would receive adequate discussion at that time.

**MOTION:** (Nellis, Gooch) To accept the proposal made by FYS Steering Committee and to move forward with their recommendations and clarifications.

**VOTE:** Motion passed (11-1-0)

**DISCUSSION OF GRAD STANDARDS:**

Brenda Boever had sent out grad standards information from the project she worked on with Ruth Thielke last spring. The information in the document indicates UMM course equivalencies to the Graduation Standards for Minnesota high schools. This information will be used by high schools and the college to advise students who attend UMM under the Post Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) to determine how UMM courses will be used to meet high school graduation requirements. The MN State Legislature mandated that all Minnesota colleges provide this information to the Commissioner of Education by August 2002.

Meeting adjourned 8:40 a.m.

Submitted by Karen Van Horn