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Curriculum Committee Minutes

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10-9-2002

### Curriculum minutes 10/09/2002

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University of Minnesota, Morris  
Morris, MN

**MINUTES 2002-2003 CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING # 4**

October 9, 2002, 8:00 a.m. Behmler Conference Room

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

Absent Danielle Stuard

Guest: Pieranna Garavaso

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Schwaller asked for a motion to approve the minutes from September 25, 2002.

It was brought up that some people on the committee are not getting their electronic copies of the minutes. Strand asked that the second sentence in the discussion paragraph after the motion to approve the English changes be changed to read, "Strand expressed concern of a multicultural literature requirement".

**MOTION:** (Nellis, DeJager) To approve minutes from September 25, 2002, as amended.

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

**CATALOG CHANGES**

**Women's Studies**

Garavaso explained that there are changes in the major and the number of courses taught in the discipline is incorrect and will be corrected. A member expressed concern about the major requirements because the prereqs are not listed and they are in fact required. There was discussion among the members about listing prereqs as required courses under the major. Schwaller stated that there is no consistency; however CC could create consistency. A member stated that some disciplines have tried to list prereqs, and another member noted that some of the electives have choices within prereqs. Schwaller suggested listing the prereqs in parenthesis after the courses and the students could then make reasonable assessments. A member suggested taking out "may" because some courses have prereqs. A member questioned if prereqs are enforced. A member noted that they are to be enforced. Schwaller explained that enforcement of prereqs is a work in progress but UMM is moving toward rigorous enforcement. A member agreed that the "may" should be stricken and indicated there are other ways students can meet prerequisite requirements.

**MOTION:** (Nellis, Ratliff-Crain) To strike "may" in the first sentence of the major requirements.

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

A member questioned the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph on page 2 of Form B. It appears there were significant changes. Garavaso explained that only the language was stricken, not the requirement of a culminating experience through 4901 or 4993, because the students found the wording confusing.

**MOTION:** (Bezanson, Nellis) To accept Women's Studies as amended.

**VOTE:** Approved (10-1-0)

## **COURSE APPROVAL:**

NSci 2051 CE: Archaeoastronomy of Native Americans. Schwaller explained that this is a May term course and students will visit some different sites.

**MOTION:** (Kuechle, Korth) To accept NSci 2051

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

## **AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES MINOR PROPOSAL:**

Schwaller explained that a revised version of the African American Studies Minor that was just approved by Campus Assembly has been distributed. A member questioned one of the changes where courses were changed to offered when feasible, what is feasibility? The minor would not be able to be completed in four years. Schwaller noted that question was considered but it did not prohibit approval of the proposal. Nellis explained that “offered when feasible” is used when a course is only taught by one instructor to accommodate a possible faculty leave. There were other issues raised about certain courses listed and Schwaller explained that it would not be in the next catalog because it will not get to the Regents until February 2003, at the earliest.

**MOTION:** (Bezanson, Korth) To return African American Studies course for corrections.

### **Discussion:**

A member stated that even though topics are used for flexibility she questioned why variable topics courses taught every year do not have regular numbers. Schwaller explained that there are two philosophies with regard to topics. One is, as the member stated, that they are used for flexibility. The opportunity for visiting professors or one-time topics. The philosophy that has been adopted by many disciplines in Social Science and now Humanities is to lump required courses within a topic rubric as placeholder for a group of related courses. A member noted that Political Science is dropping these topic umbrellas. Another member explained that each topic has its own number; the problem is more using the title. Schwaller explained that in general topics courses were created to provide flexibility for one-time offerings.

Call the question.

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

## **CATALOG CHANGES**

### **Anthropology:**

Ratliff-Crain explained that most of the changes reflect changes in faculty.

**MOTION:** (Ratliff-Crain, DeJager) To accept Anthropology changes.

A member questioned if there is a requirement of a GPA of a C+ and she also stated that the “Area of Concentration” should be “major” in the last sentence of the requirements for the major. Another member said it should be a number rather than letter GPA. Schwaller stated the letter GPA should be changed to the number 2.33. Another member questioned the “Quality of Work” statement in the catalog and suggested that it be fixed. Schwaller noted that some majors might have higher requirements. A member stated that the word “American” in Anth 2452 Native American Women is problematic and she would like the Discipline to clarify the GPA issue.

**VOTE:** Unanimous in favor with proposed questions directed to the discipline. (11-0-0)

### **Economics:**

Ratliff-Crain explained that the changes are due to changes in personnel. There were questions in the division meeting about the statement “offered when feasible”. If a course cannot be offered in the next two years the course should be deleted.

**MOTION:** (Bezanson, Korth) To accept Economics changes.

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

**History:**

Ratliff-Crain pointed out that there are some corrections in History. Hist 3016 should be Hist 3106 and Hist 3030 should be 3031. There are topics courses that do not need approval. Another member was concerned that documentation is in the last semester. A member stated that it is more difficult for the student to figure out a timeline and UMM has no formal declaration to a major. Another member questioned if the wording is part of a commitment to the assessment process. Schwaller indicated that was the case.

History will be continued at the next meeting.

DeVries requested that a statement to the campus community be sent to clarify that the WSS courses questioned at the last Campus Assembly meeting had been approved by Campus Assembly in Spring 02'. Schwaller responded that a statement had been sent to Executive Committee regarding that issue.

Meeting adjourned 9:00 a.m.  
Submitted by Karen Van Horn