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Curriculum Committee Minutes

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2-28-2007

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**UMM CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING #18 Minutes**  
**February 28, 2007, 8:00 a.m., Behmler Conference Room**

Present: Judy Kuechle (chair), Escillia Allen, Ferolyn Angell, Van Gooch, Harold Hinds, Michael Korth, Jooinn Lee, Jenny Nellis, Gwen Rudney, Ray Schultz, Sara Haugen, Jeri Mullin, Clare Strand, Nancy Helsper

Absent: Amanda Jasken

Visiting: Bert Ahern, Julie Pelletier, Tom McRoberts

Kuechle opened the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 21, 2007**

Kuechle asked for approval of minutes from the February 21, 2007 meeting.

MOTION (Hinds/Korth) to approve the minutes of February 21, 2007.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

**REGULAR APPROVAL OF COURSES**

IS 3213HHonors: The Theory and Practice of Community Based Learning

MOTION (Rudney/Nellis) to approve the new course IS 3213H.

VOTE: Motion passed (6-0-0)

IS 3214HHonors: Evolution and Culture of Human Aggression

MOTION (Lee/Rudney) to approve the new course IS 3214H.

VOTE: Motion passed (8-0-0)

**REQUEST GENERAL EDUCATION DESIGNATOR ON DIRECTED STUDY**

Kuechle explained that the student is asking for a GenEd designator of Fine Arts for this Directed Study.

MOTION (Nellis/Angell) to approve the GenEd designator of Fine Arts for Elizabeth Waller.

VOTE: Motion passed (9-0-0)

**CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES MAJOR PROPOSAL**

Kuechle reminded the committee that the agenda item was discussed at the December 5 and December 12 meetings. At the December 12 meeting, a motion was made to approve the major. The motion was tabled until further information was known regarding changes in curriculum or faculty positions that might affect the major. Kuechle welcomed guests Bert Ahern, professor of history, and Julie Pelletier, assistant professor of anthropology, and opened the discussion.

Strand stated that as a part of the all-University initiative to improve graduation rates, it is important to provide students with very clear information about requirements for graduation. Her concern with this proposal is that enforced prerequisites are not listed as part of the major. It is common practice to have introductory courses be listed as a part of a major. She proposed adding "Anth 1111 or Soc 1101" as part of the major, since students would need to take one of them in order to enroll in higher level Anth/Soc courses.

Ahern wondered if it would be possible to change the proposal without going back to the discipline to get their approval to amend it. He had not realized that prerequisites were commonly listed as part of a major proposal. Korth stated that it has been the practice to list prerequisites in majors for the last several years. It was discussed at Campus Assembly about six years ago. It was made quite clear that prerequisites should be listed in the requirements of the major. Ahern answered that he saw no problem with listing them if that's the practice.

Rudney asked if the addition of the prerequisites would change the number of credits required. Korth answered that the number would be changed to 44. [Note: This number is not correct.]

Lee encouraged the committee to see the original purpose of the program and not get distracted by a technical change. He stated that the proposed major will strengthen our recruiting effort and will be a valuable addition to our excellent undergraduate curriculum. This major, originally proposed decades ago, is now proposed at the right time. The Salt Spring Endowment Fund, from which the Duluth campus received a generous amount, may be selling land again. This proposed major will position Morris to request a larger percentage of funding on the next land sale.

Mullin stated that she was concerned that the new AmIn course will only serve 20 students per offering. An introductory course has typically served more students. It meets a GenEd requirement and will attract students, so she suggested that it be offered with the norm of 30 students. Ahern answered that instructional faculty will work it out. Pelletier added that changing the maximum to 30 students would be no problem.

Kuechle stated that committee members were interested in seeing what might happen to the program and staffing of anthropology and that was a main reason to table the vote in December. We now know that Dennis Templeman, professor of anthropology, is retiring and that a search to replace him has been approved. We know the success of the proposed major hinges upon personnel. Pelletier stated sociology/anthropology has made a full commitment to maintaining a faculty line in which the focus is American Indian Studies. The new line is position dependent, and not person dependent. The retirement of Templeman has opened up the opportunity to consider hiring an archaeologist. People are excited about that idea, and the disciplines see it as a beautiful fit. She added that Humanities has also made a commitment to multicultural education and to the offering of American Indian Studies courses being taught in English. Ahern summarized that the disciplines in question have each gone on record as committed to these resources. Lee added that the new major is budget-neutral.

VOTE: Motion passed (9-0-0)

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Nellis asked if the class schedule will be going live on March 1. Some disciplines still feel very uncertain that the class schedule they submitted will not be accurate because it is dependent on hiring decisions. If we go live now and make major changes later, all the revisions will remain on the schedule. Strand agreed that it might create a public relations nightmare. She added that it has to go live by March 19 for annual planning. Kuechle stated that we will not meet the March 1 deadline. She asked when the names of the new division chairs will be announced. Lee answered that nominations will close March 1. Korth added that it will probably be four weeks before the new division chairs of Humanities and Social Science are announced. Kuechle stated that she will work with Clare Strand to set a time for the schedule to go live. It will be ready before annual planning.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 a.m.  
Submitted by Darla Peterson