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UMM CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

MEETING # 12 Minutes

March 11, 2008, 3:00 p.m., Behmler 130

Present: Roland Guyotte (chair), Escillia Allen, Ferolyn Angell, Van Gooch, Harold Hinds, Michael Korth, Pareena Lawrence, Jenny Nellis, Nate Swanson, Laura Thoma, Kim Ukura, Sara Haugen, Nancy Helsper, Clare Strand

Absent: Judy Kuechle, Jeri Mullin, Gwen Rudney

Visiting: Brenda Boever

In these minutes: Requests for GER designator on a directed study, name change of Speech Communication Discipline, Program change in LAHS, course approvals in the Humanities

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 4, 2008

Guyotte asked for approval of minutes from the March 4, 2008 meeting.

Amendments: Strand asked that the words *Summer session* be changed to *Summer term* on page 4.

MOTION: (Nellis/Thoma) To approve the minutes from March 4, 2008, as amended.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously

2. REQUEST FOR GENERAL EDUCATION DESIGNATOR ON DIRECTED STUDY

MOTION: (Hinds/Nellis): To approve the proposed directed study GER designator, as requested.

MOTION: (Gooch/Swanson): To table the motion until it could be ascertained whether the GER designator is needed by the student.

VOTE: Motion to table passed unanimously

[The student later withdrew the request.]

Discussion:

The Directed Study IS 3993-Theatre Management in London is requesting a *Human Behavior, Social Processes, and Institutions (SS)* GER designator. Gooch stated that he did not understand how the GER category connected with the activities in the directed study. Nellis explained that theatres are institutions and the student will compare box office prices and audience attendance to determine pricing strategies and how they correlate to attendance. This could fit the human behavior part of the GER designator. Lawrence stated that her concern might be that a theatre instructor is going to grade a paper on theatre as an institution, not to say SS can only be taught by a social scientist. Hinds stated that if it has something to do with a new emerging field called audience studies, it does fit rather nicely. The request does not eloquently express the rationale in terms of that. Korth observed that the student is getting a management minor, and asked if there will already be an SS in the required courses for the minor. Lawrence answered that the management minor would include courses that carry an SS GER designator.

3. REQUEST BY SPEECH COMMUNICATION TO CHANGE DISCIPLINE NAME

MOTION: (Nellis/Hinds): To approve the name change of the Speech Communication discipline to Communication, Media, and Rhetoric (CMR)

VOTE: Motion passed (10-0-0)

Discussion:

Korth asked if the name change will result in any change in the kinds of courses taught in the discipline or the future direction of the discipline. Nellis answered that part of the reason for the change has to do with the fact that the current name is no longer commonly used. It causes some people to be confused by connecting it with speech pathology. The new name better represents the classes that are taught in the discipline. Hinds agreed that the curriculum has evolved in the major and already reflects the name change. He added that journals in the field also use the new name. Strand stated that the change is not unprecedented; there was a change to a discipline when business economics was changed to management to better reflect what was happening

in the field.

Korth asked if this request is a precursor to more changes in the major. Now that title is changed, will the curriculum be revised to move in a different direction? Nellis replied that they will be working on different ways of describing the major and moving courses around, but they will not be moving toward an entirely new curriculum. Helsper asked when the effective date would be. Nellis replied that it would be effective in Fall 2008.

Ukura stated that she agreed that the name change reflects the way the major is structured. Her only concern was that the word *media* might imply that journalism classes are offered. Guyotte responded that there is currently a broadcasting course offered. Nellis added that media theory is also offered. Ukura replied that there are not enough courses to do a journalism area of concentration right now, and using the word media in the discipline name might be misleading.

4. Change to Major Requirements in LAHS

MOTION: (Nellis/Hinds): To approve the removal of Psy 1061 from the LAHS major list of additional electives.

VOTE: Motion passed (10-0-0)

Discussion:

Lawrence explained that this change should have been submitted last year with the catalog changes at the same time that a course was added to the list.

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5. New Courses

MOTION: (Korth/Nellis): To approve the courses a discipline at a time.

VOTE: No vote was taken

Discussion:

Gooch offered a general comment on the whole package of courses on the agenda for the meeting. Years back, disciplines were encouraged to delete courses at the same rate they were adding new courses. It appears that English and Dance are adding courses without removing others. He asked if the disciplines were getting new instructors to teach the courses. Swanson added that there appears to be more courses available for students than can actually be offered.

Dnce 1334-Tap Dance I. (ArtP; 1 cr)

MOTION: (Hinds/Nellis): To approve Dnce 1334-Tap Dance I.

VOTE: Motion passed (6-2-2)

Discussion:

Angell stated that this is a more advanced class than Dnce 1323-Introduction to Tap Dance. Korth stated that he planned to vote against creating new courses in dance. The program was adopted for a specific reason that no longer exists. The program is expanding at a time when the campus is under severe financial constraints. Lawrence asked the reason for the existence of the program. Korth answered that the Minnesota State licensure requirements were the reason for its existence, but those requirements were changed the following year. Nellis stated that dance was originally housed in the Wellness Sports Science (WSS) of Education. She added that she did not believe it belonged in WSS. Angell stated that it is important to know that many courses offered in dance are supported by the Continuing Education program and not all are part of the regular day school offering. Korth asked if separate tuition is charged for those courses. Angell answered that she did not know the fee structure but instructor salaries are supported by Continuing Education. Korth replied that it is all UMM money. Nellis stated that dance classes for the most part have good enrollments, particularly tap classes. Angell stated that this class is very useful for the theatre majors who are looking to do all types of theatre and what we have now is such an elementary intro class that leaves them with some fundamentals but no chance to develop. Nellis stated that music and theatre have an informal agreement that every third year they will do a musical which brings in the areas of dance, theatre, and music. To that end, a certain amount of these kinds of course are needed to make that work.

Dnce 2321-Dance Repertory: Practice and Performance of Choreography. (ArtP; 2 cr)

MOTION: (Hinds/Nellis): To approve Dance Repertory: Practice and Performance of Choreography.

VOTE: Motion failed (3-4-3)

Discussion:

Angell explained that Dnce 2321 is geared toward student who are stepping forward and asking for areas of concentration and areas of emphasis in dance. Nellis stated that when she recently interviewed students who are getting scholarships to UMM, she found an enormous number of students with dance experience who want to continue with dance at UMM. She added that, although there is a need to have dance courses, we are currently in an awkward position with one of the instructors leaving UMM at the end of the year. Lawrence asked if UMM has a commitment to offer a certain number of courses for a major or minor in dance. Nellis answered that we do not have a dance major or minor at UMM. We have been able to offer an area of concentration or area of emphasis with the two dance instructors working through Continuing Education to offer enough courses. The dance program also supports the UMM dance ensemble, a student organization. Lawrence asked if the dance program is required for the theatre major. Nellis replied that it is not.

Thoma asked why no prerequisite was listed for the 2xxx-level course. Angell replied that it was probably an oversight, although it does signify that enrollment is at the consent of the instructor. Thoma asked how different the course is from a practicum in dance or dance composition. Angell answered that the practicum focuses on production aspects of dance performance. This course is designed to give students the opportunity to work with a professional choreographer. In dance composition classes the students learn the basics and compose dances. This course offers more of a performance opportunity. Thoma asked how many students have done this as a directed study in the past, proving a need for the course. Angell answered that the course has grown out of experiences the dance program has had in bringing to campus guest choreographers periodically.

Engl 2059-Introduction to Shakespeare. (Hum; 4 cr)

MOTION: (Korth/Thoma): To approve the new course, Engl 2059

VOTE: Motion passed (9-0-1)

Discussion: There was no discussion.

Fren 4012-Advanced Language Studies: Advanced French Grammar. (Hum; 4 cr)

MOTION: (Korth/Hinds): To approve the new course, Fren 4012

VOTE: Motion passed (10-0-1)

Discussion: There was no discussion.

Th 3305-Stage Make-up. (Art/P; 4 cr)

MOTION: (Nellis/Hinds): To approve the provisionally-approved course, Th 3305

VOTE: Motion passed (9-0-1)

Discussion: Nellis stated that this course received provisional approval a year ago. It is coming to the committee for regular approval.

6. Provisionally Approved Courses Requesting Regular Approval

ArtH 3132-Castles and Cathedrals. (FA; 4 cr)

MOTION: (Korth/Ukura): To approve the course, ArtH 3132

VOTE: Motion passed (7-1-2)

Discussion: Angell asked if this course replaces another or is an addition. Ukura answered that it states that it fills a gap.

MOTION: (Korth/Ukura): To approve the English Courses

VOTE: No vote was taken

MOTION: (Hinds/Angell): Amendment to approve the English Courses one at a time

VOTE: Motion passed, but didn't count

Engl 2015-Introduction to Film Studies. (Hum; 4 cr)

MOTION: (Korth/Ukura): To approve the course, Engl 2015

VOTE: Motion passed (5-3-2)

Discussion:

Nellis explained that English is updating courses to reflect the courses that current English faculty want to teach and the changes they want to make. Their intention is to deactivate some courses currently in the list next fall during the Catalog change process. Ukura added that a new Shakespearean was hired last year and new modern Americanist was just hired, so course changes reflect the changes in the English faculty.

Thoma asked how many film classes are offered across campus, because it seems every discipline has one. Nellis answered that UMM does not have a film studies program, so if a film course relates to a discipline, that discipline offers a course. This is common in the languages and LAAS. Thoma responded that film is good, but that's a lot of film. Nellis answered that they aren't all offered every year. Gooch asked why the course is being offered in the English discipline. There doesn't seem to be anything relating to English in the course rationale. The ones in French are clearly related to French. Hinds answered that film studies programs are traditionally housed in English disciplines.

Swanson stated that he had a concern about the moniker attached to the course. It implies that if you have an introductory course in film studies, you can get a degree in film studies at UMM. The others are tailored to fit within their majors. This is a truth-in-advertising issue. Nellis answered that this course helps students get a framework to help them think about film. Hinds added that UMM currently has a series of film courses in various disciplines, but there is not an introductory course. There is a grammar and basic cinematology that is helpful for students to learn before studying a film. Swanson asked if this would be a prerequisite course for other film courses. Strand mentioned that it would be awkward to take a 2xxx-level course as an introductory course. It might be better to make it a 1xxx-level course like all the other intro courses.

Thoma asked if there would be collaboration between other film instructors, since intro courses are usually an intro to something taken later. Angell answered that she thought it perhaps belongs in Communication, Media and Rhetoric instead of English. She asked if it is in English because the instructor is an English faculty member. Nellis stated that there is a lot of writing involved in viewing films critically, so it makes sense to keep it in English. Helsper mentioned that it follows the series of English courses 2011-2014, which are introductions in English. Nellis agreed that it appears to be an English class. Gooch stated that he was not convinced that it is really an English course. Hinds answered that film studies have developed as a focus on rhetorical studies and language, so it is logical for it to be in English.

Helsper pointed out a confusing statement on page 23 under the "Additional Course Information" section. The statements listed appear to either include a typo or should be removed completely. That needs to be resolved.

Engl 2022-Sports Literature and Writing. (Hum; 4 cr)

MOTION: (Korth/Ukura): To approve the course, Engl 2022

VOTE: Motion passed (5-3-2) [Angell left the meeting prior to this vote]

Discussion:

Swanson asked if the 2xxx-level course is more intended for majors or non-majors. Angell stated that it is intended for English majors. Ukura added that it is intended for both majors and non-majors. Swanson asked if there had been a demand for this particular course, in the form of directed studies. Lawrence added that it's so specific that it would give one the impression that there is a demand. Nellis answered that students mention in the college writing course that they would like to have more topics to write about. It seems that we need to give them opportunities to write about something of interest to students. Lawrence asked if there is enough to write about in a 4-credit class. Couldn't the student pick the topic of sports to write about in the existing college writing class? Nellis stated that it depends on the instructor whether a student has the freedom to choose their own topic. Since the topics rubric was removed from the curriculum, specific courses like this need to be created.

Engl 2411-Representations of American Indians in Popular Culture. (HDiv; 4 cr)

MOTION: (Nellis/Ukura): To approve the course, Engl 2411

VOTE: Motion passed (9-0-0)

Discussion:

Nellis stated that this is another possible topic that extends the offerings for the American Indian studies major.

Engl 2421-Understanding Moby-Dick. (Hum; 4 cr)

MOTION: (Nellis/Ukura): To approve the course, Engl 2421

VOTE: Motion passed (7-1-1)

Discussion: There was no discussion.

Guyotte announced that the remainder of the agenda will be completed at the March 25 meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:04 p.m.

Submitted by Darla Peterson