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Curriculum Committee Minutes

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10-15-2008

### Curriculum minutes 10/15/2008

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**UMM CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**  
**2008-09 MEETING #7 Minutes**  
**October 15, 2008, 8:00 a.m., Imholte 109**

Present: Cheryl Contant (chair), Brenda Boever, Mark Collier, Janet Ericksen, Van Gooch, Sara Haugen, Donovan Hanson, Michael Korth, Judy Kuechle, Pareena Lawrence, Axl McChesney, Gwen Rudney, Clare Strand, Nancy Helsper

Absent: Veronica Lei, Alex Murphy, Dennis Stewart

Visiting: Jayne Blodgett, Sarah Buchanan, Dorothy DeJager, Pieranna Garavaso, Tom McRoberts, Jeff Ratliff-Crain, Jeri Squier

*In these minutes: Catalog Changes in: Interdisciplinary Studies (continued); Honors Program; Interdisciplinary Studies Internships; Continuing Education, Regional Programs, and Summer Session; Miscellaneous late course changes; Learning to Learn; and First Year Seminar.*

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 13, 2008**

MOTION by Ericksen/Hanson to approve the October 13, 2008 minutes.

Discussion:

Strand stated that Contant had mentioned at the last meeting that the Committee would discuss foreign languages at a later meeting, but this was not in the minutes. [It was not included in the minutes but was noted for a future meeting.] She added that on page 4 of the minutes, her statement about the University auditors was in reference to having faculty and students collecting money. The sentence “Clare commented that the University auditors would have a real problem with that” will be changed to “Clare commented that the University auditors would have a real problem with our having faculty and students collecting money.”

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote (with correction as noted).

**2. INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES CATALOG CHANGES (continued)**

**Interdisciplinary Studies Majors/Minors (reporting to Dean’s Office)**

**ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES**

MOTION (Gooch/Ericksen) to approve the course changes in Environmental Studies.

Contant presented the Environmental Studies course changes. Two existing courses were added to the list of electives for the major (Phys 2310: Atmospheric Physics, and Anth 3206: Ecological Anthropology), and Education was added to the list of “interest and expertise” divisions. One new course in environmental studies is proposed:

ENST 2111: Environmental Ethics (ENVT; 4 cr).

This is a fundamental course offering in environmental studies, but there was not a faculty member in place to teach it until this year. Students may take this course in addition or in place of Engl 2106.

Discussion:

Lawrence commented on the statement that students should meet with the environmental studies advisor. Lawrence stated that it would be difficult for a student to have a separate environmental studies advisor. She would rather it state that students should meet with their advisor. Students don’t always know who the discipline coordinator is for interdisciplinary majors. Contant stated that the only time she could imagine it would make sense for a student to see

the coordinator would be if a student were discussing a course substitution.

VOTE: Motion passed (9-0-0)

### **EUROPEAN STUDIES (ES)**

MOTION (Gooch/Rudney) to approve the course changes in European Studies.

Discussion:

Lawrence asked why some headings state “take no more than 16 credits from the following” when there are, in some cases, fewer than 4 courses listed. Squier answered that students are limited to only 16 credits in an area, and ES may add courses to an area in the future. Even though there are only 2 courses listed, the statement in the heading is standard.

VOTE: Motion passed (9-0-0)

### **LATIN AMERICAN AREA STUDIES (LAAS)**

MOTION (Gooch/Rudney) to approve the course changes in Latin American Area Studies.

Contant presented the changes to the Latin American Area Studies major. Changes involve inactivating courses that are no longer active in other disciplines and those that do not have the required content in LAAS.

VOTE: Motion passed (9-0-0)

### **Interdisciplinary Studies Majors/Minors (reporting to Divisions)**

### **LIBERAL ARTS FOR THE HUMAN SERVICES (LAHS)**

MOTION (Lawrence/Kuechle) to approve the course changes in Liberal Arts for the Human Services.

Lawrence presented the changes in LAHS. Any course changes in other related majors are reflected. Required courses now include an internship. Students taking an internship involved with working with people in a helping relationship is required to take IS 3796 [which is discussed later].

VOTE: Motion passed (9-0-0)

### **WOMEN’S STUDIES (WoSt)**

MOTION (Lawrence/Kuechle) to approve the course changes in Women’s Studies.

Lawrence presented the changes in Women’s Studies. Substantial changes include changing the name from Women’s Studies (WoSt) to Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies (GWSS). The primary reason for the name change is the breadth that it brings and current trend across the nation (including the Twin Cities campus) to use GWSS. The course description is updated, but the content of the major doesn’t change. They were already looking at sexuality and gender issues. Other changes include removing a required directed study because it’s not a good practice to require directed studies, and dividing the courses into those with primary and those with partial GWSS content.

Discussion:

Gooch stated that although strongly in favor of the proposed changes, he did not agree that it is simply a name change. It seems like a new major that can now include areas other than women, such as men’s studies and gay rights. The objectives seem vastly different. Buchanan explained that the changes noted are the result of the way in which women’s

studies has developed in the field over time to include the areas described. Garavaso added that the revised description only describes changes that are already in place. Over the years, so many more relevant courses have been added to the list. The proposal does not represent something that needs to be done, but rather describing what has already been done. It reflects the change in the major that already exist.

Garavaso announced that she was just made aware that two courses have been excluded from the list of elective courses for the minor. Two courses, Engl 2031-Gender in Literature and Culture, and Soc 3121-Sociology of Gender, are listed as required courses in the major but are missing from elective courses for the minor.

Contant stated that other course changes include changing the WoSt prefixes to GWSS. In fact, the course prefix is even changed for a course that is being inactivated. Strand responded that it will be helpful to show the course designator change if the course is reactivated later.

VOTE: Motion passed (9-0-0)

### **SOCIAL SCIENCE Major**

MOTION (Lawrence/Kuechle) to approve the course changes in the Social Science Major.

Lawrence presented the changes to the social science major. The term sub-plan replaces area of focus. This change is reflected in both the major and the minor. Kuechle stated that this major leads to licensure in secondary education, and the list of courses matches the standards.

VOTE: Motion passed (9-0-0)

### **3. HONORS PROGRAM CATALOG CHANGES**

MOTION (Ericksen/Rudney) to approve the course changes in the Honors program.

Contant presented the changes to the honors program, which is housed in the Dean's Office. Changes consist of minor editorial changes, the inactivation of 4 courses that will no longer be offered, and the addition of a new course. Two courses that were approved last year but didn't make it into the system are added. The new course is:

IS 3234 H-Intersections of Art and Science (FA; 2 cr)

This course is part of an effort to expand offerings for students in the honors program. Contant noted that this course would be co-taught by faculty members in chemistry and studio art.

Discussion:

Strand asked if the reference to the Honors Office in the admissions requirements section of PCAS should be changed to the Registrar's Office, which is doing most of the clerical support for the honors program. Kuechle asked if the honors program was now housed in the new academic center for enrichment (ACE). McRoberts answered that it was. Contant stated that "honors office" should be changed to academic center for enrichment. Korth noted that the room number is never seen by anyone.

Strand asked if IS 3206H is the same course that changed to a management course and should be inactivated. Lawrence answered that it was not the same course.

VOTE: Motion passed (8-0-0)

### **4. INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES INTERNSHIPS**

MOTION (Lawrence/Rudney) to approve the course changes to interdisciplinary studies internships.

Contant presented the course changes to IS internships. [This is the change that Lawrence referred to in the earlier discussion of LAHS.] The change involves keeping the IS 3996 internship as it is (with one exception noted later) and adding a new Internship similar to 3996:

### IS 3796-Interdisciplinary Internship in the Helping Professions

Students who will do internships that involving people and the helping professions would take this course rather than 3996. This course requires a prerequisite of IS 4101-Intro to Prof Conduct, Legal Constraints, Ethics in Human Services. The internship in the helping professions, with its prerequisite, will ensure that students are entering into those relationships with the appropriate background.

Contant explained that the change to the IS 3996 course refers to the repetition of the course. The Committee has in the past discussed the 32-credit limit on internships. The decision by the Committee to place the restriction did not go to campus assembly for approval, and should therefore be deleted until it is voted on by campus assembly. The Committee should not unilaterally make that level of policy. Korth answered that the Committee makes such a decision each time it approves a new course, because the credit limit is on the course. Contant stated that the repetition of this particular course is a much broader issue and concerns how much of the student's curriculum should be spent in the broader world rather than in the classroom. This is an issue that should be discussed in the Committee and brought to campus assembly. Rather than hiding it in the context of a course, we need to have a discussion about it on its own merit. Squier noted that at the same time the limit was approved by the Committee, all of the directed studies were limited to 10 credits. She asked if they should all be changed back to the default of 999 as well. Contant answered that she did not think directed studies raise the same level of red flag as internships. Directed studies involve an overload for faculty to teach them. Contant added that there are internships across the curriculum—not just the IS internships. Does the 32-credit limit apply just to this one or all of them? Rudney noted that she did not think of the credit limit as being hidden in the context of a course, as Contant had stated. Contant agreed that it's not hidden or slipped in. It is part of the Committee's discussion on a course-by-course basis. It's also a part of courses that might not have been pointed out at the time the course is discussed.

The question of what to do about other internships is important. The language refers to a limit between these 2 courses, but does not include other internships. The Committee needs to have a more careful conversation about it relatively quickly. Ratliff-Crain commented that one protection of students signing up for 999 credits is that any such internship has to be approved by the faculty member and the division chair or dean. Rudney added that there is a safety net, and it is more important to have it fixed rather than having signers decide each time. Kuechle asked if the correction would result in no number being listed. Squier answered that the standard is 999. Korth responded that it should have a limit, which it already has. Lawrence asked if the Committee could just leave it and revisit it in two weeks. Contant answered that there is time to look at it later because the change will not be effective until fall 09. Squier asked Ratliff-Crain if he would like the language back in about the 32-credit limit. Ratliff-Crain replied that it makes sense. It's essentially a full year internship at full-time, which seems reasonable. If someone needed more than 32 credits that there would be avenues to do that by requesting an exception. Strand stated that any limit on internships needs to be part of the degree requirement limitation on how many credits of internships can count toward the 120 for the degree. We currently have a limit on the number of skills or other such courses a student can count toward the degree. It was agreed that the 32-credit limit would remain on the internships at this time, and the language in the new 3796 course would include the 32-credit limit.

Rudney asked if the ethics course is required for the LAHS major. Ratliff-Crain answered that it is required, but the intent is to take it before the IS 3076 internship.

VOTE: Motion passed (8-0-0), with the 32-credit restriction remaining.

## **5. CONTINUING EDUCATION, REGIONAL PROGRAMS, AND SUMER SESSION CATALOG CHANGES**

(Moved up on the agenda at the understood approval of the Committee)

MOTION (Rudney/Ericksen) to approve the course changes to Continuing Education courses.

Contant presented the course changes for Continuing Education. Changes include the inactivation of courses no longer offered. Also included in this packet is an issue that was addressed at the April 1, 2008 Committee meeting, regarding the numbering of the skills courses to 12xx consistently. Those course changes are listed, including the Beginning Taekwondo course that was approved at the May 6, 2008 meeting, and was sent back by campus assembly on September 23, 2008, with directives to change the course to a 12xx course.

Four new courses are proposed:

Fren 1023: July in Paris II: French Language and Culture in Paris (FL; 4 cr)

Buchanan explained that Fren 1021 already exists for non-majors going to Paris to study French with no experience. Fren 1023 is designed for students who would like to satisfy the foreign language requirement abroad. Fren 1023 is equivalent to Fren 1002 on campus and would satisfy the FL requirement.

Discussion:

Strand asked if this course is equivalent to a semester-long course. Buchanan answered that it consists of 50 hours in the classroom, as opposed to the 45 hours required on campus. That does not include the additional required excursions.

Fren 3046-Francophone Studies: Morocco: History, Story, Myth (IP; 4 cr)

This course is taught exclusively in French. The French discipline is eliminating the option of taking one course in English for a French major, so they are adding 3xxx-level courses, taught exclusively in French, to replace courses formerly cross-listed with Hum courses. This course replaces Fren 1312 as an elective for French majors. Fren 1312 is being turned into a course exclusively for non-majors and replaces Hum 1312, which is being eliminated.

Psy 1301-Psychology and Film (SS; 4 cr)

Time restraints on a semester class make it difficult to show and fully analyze films in class. This is a May term class, ideal for this course because of the longer time-frame.

WSS 2333-The Story of Sports (SS; 4 cr)

This course received provisional approve in 2007.

Discussion:

Rudney stated that the form is confusing. It lists the "College Name" for WSS as the division of elementary and secondary education. That is not the name of the division. Squier answered that it's a default in the system that can't easily be fixed. Strand stated that the Dean has to do it. Contant answered that it will be fixed. Rudney continued to state that the course sounds interesting, but she wanted to register a concern that although it has the designators of and belongs in the division of education, the courses do not come through the division in the normal process. The courses were not voted on or discussed by the division. Collier asked if any of the continuing education courses presented had been approved by a different committee. Contant answered that all of the specific courses with an IS designator or presented as continuing education courses were reviewed by a committee of faculty including division chairs and have been approved for discussion by the Curriculum Committee.

VOTE: Motion passed (8-0-0).

## **7. MISCELLANEOUS COURSES CLEAN-UP**

MOTION (Rudney/Kuechle) to approve all of the miscellaneous course changes.

Contant explained that these courses consist of issues that are in response to earlier proposed changes or have come

forward after the division finished its presentation of course changes.

**Mathematics:** Korth explained that when the mathematics changes were presented, the pre-calculus course was split into two courses. Committee members voiced concerns at the time as to why nothing was mentioned about placement into the courses. Since the discipline does use placement to put students into the right course, the math discipline agreed that it would be right to include a statement about placement to the pre-calculus and survey of calculus courses.

**Pol 4905:** The enforced prerequisites now include stat 1601 or stat 2601.

### **Humanities:**

**CMR 3101** has a revised course description to not specify specific Sophists (Corax and Tisias), and to instead refer to Sophists in general.

**HUM 1571** should be inactivated.

VOTE: Motion passed (8-0-0).

## **7. FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR AND LEARNING TO LEARN COURSE**

MOTION (Kuechle/Ericksen) to separate the two items and approve IS 1601: Learning to Learn.

Contant explained that the Center for Advising and Learning offers IS 1601: Learning to Learn. The proposal changes the title of the course to “Mastering Skills for College Success, and removes the SS GenEd designator, since it is a skills course.

VOTE: Motion passed (8-0-0).

### **IS-1001: First-Year Seminar**

MOTION (Korth/Ericksen) to approve the course changes to IS-1001.

Ratliff-Crain presented the proposed changes to the First-Year Seminar (FYS) course. There were 2 goals in mind when revising the course description: 1) to make it more consistent to the GenEd description and 2) to provide more flexibility with regard to the theme. Having human diversity in the title drastically limits the topics and directions the course might take, as well as limiting the number of faculty that might participate. The intent to remove the human diversity theme is to provide an opportunity for faculty to explore different themes. Inserting a diverse and contemporary society back into the course description allows for continuation of the human diversity theme. The First Year Experience disappearing task force concluded, among various things, that the human diversity theme was a constraint. At this time a particular theme is not being proposed, nor does the proposed removal of the human diversity theme mean that it is a bad thing. Contant stated that the Committee could discuss the topic for an hour because of the variety of issues and opinions surrounding the course, but there is only 3-4 minutes left before the Committee has to make a decision to either move forward for greater discussion at the campus assembly meeting or simply not pass the motion. Ratliff-Crain asked if not passing the motion would mean that it would not go to campus assembly for conversation and would remain as it currently is in the next catalog. Contant said that he was correct.

### **Discussion:**

Collier stated that the first option would be rushing a vote for it but it would have approval by the Committee. He asked if everyone could abstain and still send it to the assembly. Contant answered that the Committee would have to pass a motion by majority vote for an item to be forwarded to the assembly. It could however be brought to the floor of the assembly by any member of the Committee. Lawrence stated that that a few members could abstain, as she was intending to do. Collier asked if there was an option of the Committee having a broader discussion of the issue at some point. Kuechle answered that it could not occur by the catalog deadline. Helsper added that her proof deadline is

January 20 and there wouldn't be time at the beginning of spring semester to hold another assembly meeting before the catalog deadline.

Ratliff-Crain stated that part of the pitch for asking for the change is to begin a much-needed campus discussion about the FYS and its contents. If the change is not approved, the catalog will dictate what the theme is going to be. Unfortunately there isn't time to explore it in detail before the catalog deadline. A decision needs to be made to remove human diversity or to continue with it as is. The outcome should be a decision rather than a default. Squier asked if the FYE task force believed that removing human diversity from the title would get more faculty interested in teaching it. Ratliff-Crain answered that it was one of the possible results. There are faculty who are interested in teaching the FYS but do not see how their interest and expertise fits in. Collier commented that his concern was the need to have constraints on FYS to prevent everyone from teaching different things. Contant added that constraints are good and there should be a unified topic. The course is organized to incorporate constraints similar to a senior seminar. However, the phrase human diversity poses constraints on faculty who otherwise would propose courses that most would find acceptable. The revised course description indicates there would be a theme. The concern is that the title is much narrower. DeJager stated that when the course was created words were used such as the lens that you view things through and statements similar to the new description wording. It looks like human diversity was removed from title but appears in description. Collier stated that the description is extremely broad. Contant answered that the course was initially proposed to have rotating themes. Human diversity is one of the rotations, but because it is in title, it now has stuck. Part of the reason for moving it out of the title is to allow other themes to emerge as chosen by folks involved in the FYS course. Collier asked how it would work to change themes each year. Contant answered that it is exactly what happens now.

Contant suggested changing the order of words in first sentence of the course description from: "The first-year seminar aims to teach students to think critically . . .to a collegiate, liberal arts environment in a small seminar setting." to "The first-year seminar aims to teach students, in a small seminar setting, to think critically . . .to a collegiate, liberal arts environment." As changed, "in a small seminar setting" now accurately refers to the course, rather than the campus.

VOTE: Motion passed (5-1-2) with the editorial change of reordering words in the first sentence of the course description.

Adjourned 9:10 a.m.

Submitted by Darla Peterson