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Curriculum Committee Minutes

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UMM CURRICULUM COMMITTEE
2009-10 MEETING#7 Minutes
December 10, 2009, 8:00 a.m., Behmler 130

Present: Cheryl Contant (chair), Janet Ericksen, Mark Fohl, Sara Haugen, Michael Korth, Pareena Lawrence, Mike McBride, Dave Roberts, Gwen Rudney, Jeri Squier, Dennis Stewart, Elizabeth Thoma, Tisha Turk
Absent: Talia Earle, Nicholas Johnson, Clare Strand
Visiting: Jayne Blodgett, Nancy Helsper, Jeffrey Ratliff-Crain

In these minutes: Course Approvals, FYE Curricular Component Subcommittee Progress Report, Learning Outcomes Subcommittee Progress Report

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 19, 2009

MOTION (McBride/Ericksen) to approve the November 19, 2009 minutes. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

2. LEARNING OUTCOMES SUBCOMMITTEE PROPOSAL

Contant stated that she had received input from the student services committee (twice), the scholastic committee, the assessment of student learning committee, a Morris Campus Student Association forum, all four division faculties, a student forum, and a forum for staff in which faculty who couldn't attend their division meeting could participate if they chose to. Well over 10 hours of input from the campus community. In addition, an email address was prepared to which comments could be submitted. A revised version of Student Learning Outcomes was prepared with suggested changes based on the feedback.

After discussion, the committee agreed upon a final version with changes.

MOTION (Ericksen/McBride): to approve the Student Learning Outcomes as amended.

VOTE: (9-0-0)

3. FYE CURRICULAR COMPONENT SUBCOMMITTEE PROPOSAL

Ratliff-Crain presented the subcommittee's proposal. Ericksen questioned were students would get all of the things that FYE attempted to provide. Ratliff-Crain stated that he had a discussion with the Student Services Committee on that point and on how to create a more identifiable first-year experience. That bad thing is that once the first-year course ends, there is nothing to continue through spring semester. Something else has to pick up the additional first-year experience non-curricular components.

Contant asked if it would be necessary to change the current general education requirements in order to offer the new course. Ratliff-Crain answered that the course name "First Year Seminar" is in the catalog. Roberts stated that a criticism arose regarding the interaction with discipline requirements. We wouldn't want it to be a course that students need to take as a major/minor requirement. We would want to only allow it to meet electives only. We could specifically prohibit it from being a required course in a major/minor.

Strand stated concerns about the courses having 2-4 credits. It will impact the scheduling for students who want to take a 4-credit course when they are filled. Will they understand if registering for a 4-credit course that their experience will be different than their roommate's? Contant answered that the content, credit hours, length of time, etc, are not similar. Only the basic goals of the class must be met. Strand replied that it will make it more difficult for the class scheduler. Contant answered that the total number of courses will not change because electives that don't need to be offered won't be offered.

Strand cautioned against making significant catalog changes in an off-catalog year. If these courses are added for next

fall, the curriculum changes, as well as PCAS. Contant asked if her concern was that this change is being pushed too fast and that we should stay with the current course this year and make the change in a subsequent year. Thoma replied that although there are some detail-oriented questions, it should be addressed in an efficient time manner this year.

Roberts stated that a lot of models were considered and this was the winner. A big advantage was that transition issues were relatively small. The current first-year seminar course can be rolled over, and instructors are willing to buy into this model. That makes it possible to do it.

Contant thanked the subcommittees for their hard work in tackling some pretty tough issues this semester, with hours spent behind-the-scenes.

Contant announced that the Curriculum Committee will meet in the Spring Semester on Wednesdays at 8:00 AM, beginning January 27, 2010.

Adjourned 9:30 a.m.

Submitted by Darla Peterson