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UMM CURRICULUM COMMITTEE
2010-11 MEETING #4 Minutes
September 30, 2010, 12:00 p.m., 2200 Science

Present: Cheryl Contant (chair), Clare Dingley, Molly Donovan, Janet Ericksen, Tara Greiman, Sara Haugen, Michael Korth, Pareena Lawrence, Ian Patterson, David Roberts, Gwen Rudney, Elizabeth Thoma, Tisha Turk

Absent: Mark Fohl, Leslie Meek, Jeri Squier

Visiting: Jayne Hacker, Nancy Helsper, Heather James, Jeff Ratliff-Crain

In these minutes: Humanities Division catalog changes.

1. HUMANITIES DIVISION CATALOG CHANGES

Ericksen stated that three disciplines have not submitted changes to their curriculum: communication, media, and rhetoric; philosophy; and theatre.

ART HISTORY (ArtH)

MOTION (Thoma/Patterson) to approve the art history discipline course changes.

Ericksen presented the changes for the art history discipline. One simple change to the required courses will be addressed under studio art. The course title for ArtH 3221, "20th-Century American Art: 1945 to the Present" will change to "American Art from the End of Modernism to the Postmodern Present." The change reflects that we are no longer in the 20th century. ArtH 3161 changed its catalog description to better reflect the content of the course.

Roberts asked what would be lost if the title of ArtH 3221 removed the word "Postmodern" and just said "Present." Ericksen answered that "Modernism" and "Postmodern" refer to art movements. Lawrence commented on the use of the words "fascinating trends" in the new course description for ArtH 3161. Roberts asked if it is acceptable catalog language to use the word "fascinating." Dingley answered that it is a trend for catalogs to word titles that attract students.

Motion passed (10-0-0)

STUDIO ART (ArtS)

MOTION (Thoma/Patterson) to approve the studio art discipline course changes.

Ericksen presented the changes for the studio art discipline. ArtS 1500 is being deactivated. It is a course designed for non-majors that was offered through Continuing Education for many years. It was transferred to studio art where a similar course, ArtS 1005, already exists. This deletion removes the redundancy and confusion that it caused students who didn't know which course to take. One new course, ArtS 3014, has provisional approval and needs regular approval. It will be placed in the rotation of special topics classes.

Motion passed (10-0-0)

DANCE (Dnce)

MOTION (Thoma/Patterson) to approve the dance course changes.

Ericksen explained that two courses were provisionally approved last year. The instructor who proposed the courses is no longer at UMM and there is no plan to offer the courses in the future. The courses were submitted and in the system, and she was unclear on how to remove them, so she allowed them to go forward and would not mind if they were voted down by the committee. Korth asked how many courses are currently active under the Dnce designator. Ericksen stated that a Form A was not prepared because Dance does not have a coordinator, but she thought there were one to four academic classes and the rest are technique. Helsper displayed the Dnce courses listed in the current catalog, showing 19 courses. Ratliff-Crain asked what happens to provisionally-approved courses when the time runs out. Dingley answered that they will automatically be deactivated. Ratliff-Crain asked why the courses were not submitted to be deactivated. Ericksen answered that she wasn't sure

how to deactivate a provisional course. With no faculty responsible for the courses, she opted to bring them forward for a no vote. Contant asked if she was correct in understanding that the two courses were provisionally approved almost a year ago, were now being forwarded for regular approval with the recommendation from the division chair that they not be approved for this upcoming catalog cycle. Ericksen said that was correct. Patterson asked what the enrollments were when the courses were taught last year. Ericksen answered that enrollment was modest. Thoma asked if the current dance instructor would feel comfortable teaching the courses. Ericksen answered that it would not be possible to offer the courses without additional funding. Korth stated that the division should examine the courses again and recommend that they not go forward. A change in what the division wants to do should come from the division rather than asking the committee to vote it down. Contant noted that the recommendation from the division was not a recent decision. The courses are coming through now in the regular cycle of curricular changes, but things have changed between then and now in the dance program.

Motion was withdrawn (Thomas/Patterson)

Ericksen stated that she will go back to the division and ask if they want to withdraw the courses. If nothing further is done they will automatically disappear, according to approved Curriculum Committee procedures. Lawrence stated that her division was told to bring provisionally-approved courses forward to deactivate them. Helsper noted that it helps to clarify that leaving them for automatic removal wasn't just an oversight. Dingley added that it is especially helpful when both provisional and regular approval boxes were requested.

ENGLISH (Engl)

MOTION (Thoma/Turk) to approve the English discipline major, minor, and course changes.

Ericksen stated that English had two big changes. Engl 1131 is being moved to a 2xxx-level course with a new name. The existing course had the same title as a course offered in many high schools, so students would come to UMM saying that they had already taken it, when in actuality it was not at all the same course. Engl 1131 has also been a prerequisite for nearly all other English courses, and was serving two different audiences: future English majors and students from the general population. With the proposed change, the gateway course for majors will be freed to concentrate on introducing and developing the skills required of English majors without also having to cater to a general audience unlikely to take other courses in English. With the removal of Engl 1131 as a prerequisite for all other English courses, the general audience will now be free to take a wide variety of 2xxx-level English courses as their interests dictate, while English majors will benefit from a course specifically designed for their needs.

Most of the proposed changes to other courses are minor alterations to prerequisite descriptions; these changes largely follow from the shift from 1131 to 2501. One other major change is the identification of a group of three existing courses (3005, 3021, 3411), of which English majors will now be required to take at least one. These three courses are dedicated to developing advanced skills (in writing, language analysis, and theoretical analysis). The discipline feels that majors should be expected to concentrate on enhancing their skills in at least one of these areas. Most English majors take the courses anyway, but now they are required to take one of them. Other changes include the introduction of two new courses at a lower level, updates to the major and minor descriptions to reflect the addition of previously-approved courses since the last revision, and the removal of courses that are not likely to be offered in the next two years.

Rudney stated that Engl 1131 had been recommended to elementary education students to give them background knowledge in English. She asked if 2501 might pose a problem for those students. Ericksen answered that the course is designed to serve majors, and the EIED students should go into it with that understanding. Turk agreed and added that students not interested in majoring in English will now be free to take a much wider variety of classes since that the prerequisite of 1131 is gone. Rudney stated that she was sure the EIED students will appreciate having a lot of options.

Contant questioned whether 1131 should have been forwarded as a deactivated course and 2501 as a new course, since the number, title, and course description have all changed. Ericksen answered that it is easier to track the changes if it is brought forward as a course change. Dingley added that the PeopleSoft system wants it done this way because of something to do with a shared course ID. Dingley asked if 2501 was an equivalent to 1131, and if students cannot get credit for both, something needs to be put into the system to inform them. Korth suggested adding the following advisory parenthetical text: "no credit for students who have received credit for Engl 1131." Helsper added that Squier will need to add it since it is at the Curriculum Committee level now in ECAS.

Motion passed (10-0-0)

FRENCH (Fren)

MOTION (Thoma/Patterson) to approve the French major, minor, and course changes.

Ericksen presented the French curricular changes. The discipline is making changes to be able to better support interdisciplinary programs such as GWSS, the African-American studies minor, and the area of concentration in film studies. Currently French is not able to offer courses for non-majors. They are eliminating the 3xxx-level courses that have an equivalent 1xxx-level course (3027, 3036, 3045, and 3046). They are eliminating three courses (1304, 3034, and 3035) and replacing them with two others (1031 and 3039), which better match the instructor's research and teaching interests. The three levels of July in Paris courses are changing to even years only and the grading is changing to A/F to hold students more accountable. They are also eliminating the Gen Ed designator from Fren 1001, since it does not satisfy the FL GER (only Fren 1002 or equivalent does).

Ratliff-Crain asked if the elimination of the FL designator will be removed from all 1001 language courses. Helsper displayed a table of all active courses with the FL designator. Ericksen answered that it will be put forward in the three largest language disciplines and then will be requested across-the-board, if it is approved. Contant added that beginning language courses that have the 13xx number should also be considered to be consistent. Ericksen replied that she intended to change those but was told that it could not be done. Helsper noted that she will check into the availability of 10xx course numbers.

Korth stated that it would be best if the committee received a comprehensive written recommendation from all of the disciplines and programs involved, rather than jump ahead with one proposal from one discipline. Contant explained that each course will go forward with their major and all others will be brought forward at the wrap-up meeting. Ericksen added that they tried to bring the change forward as Korth suggested two years ago, but it failed. The rationale for bringing it forward discipline-by-discipline is to show that each discipline does want it to happen.

Motion passed (10-0-0)

GERMAN (Ger)

MOTION (Thoma/Patterson) to approve the German discipline course change.

Ericksen stated that the only change in German is to remove the FL designator from Ger 1001.

Motion passed (10-0-0)

ITALIAN (Ital)

MOTION (Thoma/Patterson) to approve the Italian course changes.

Ericksen explained that two courses that were formerly 3-credit courses under continuing education have changed to 4-credit courses. A few minor changes to each course have been made as well, including an updated course description.

Roberts asked if the credits will increase for the sign language course as well. Rudney answered that it will come forward with the Education course changes.

Motion passed (10-0-0)

MUSIC (Mus)

MOTION (Thoma/Patterson) to approve the music discipline major, minor, and course changes.

The first change has to do with a change to the music minor. In the past, students were required to enroll in one-unit lessons (Mus 1200) until they passed a piano proficiency test. The minor has been changed so that students have to take four semesters of piano lessons to meet the requirement. While this appears to add 4 courses to the minor, the students were already enrolling in those courses.

Ericksen stated that the change to the music major is to offer a beginning assessment exam that is purely advisory. The plan is

to offer the assessment during orientation week. Students come in with varying understandings of their own musical skill levels. The intent is to help students to better plan and succeed in the major. Greiman asked if the assessment will be offered to students who decide on a music major after their first year. How would non-majors know that it is necessary? Dingley answered that it will show up on their APAS. Contant added that it will also appear in the text of the course.

The techniques courses (Mus 3301-3304) are changing to the more appropriate 2xxx level. The music major is offering new class piano courses for music majors (Mus 1111, 1112, 2111, 2112) as an option for students who need to pass piano proficiency. More students can take the piano sequence this way. The number of students who are interested in piano has increased.

Mus 0100 had to be renumbered to Mus 1000. The system defines 0xxx courses as remedial. Mus 1049 is a new course for non-majors. Mus 1360 is a provisionally-approved concert choir tour. The tour component was confusing to students, and separating it into a new course should clarify it. A new course, Mus 1370 provides a string orchestra. It will be offered when there are an insufficient number of students for the full orchestra.

Korth asked if it was necessary that concert attendance carry academic credit. What is done that is evaluated? Dingley answered that it is the best way to track and enforce concert attendance, and it is required for the major. Thoma agreed and added that from a student perspective it eats up quite a chunk of time. Korth replied that it wasn't the amount of time he questioned, but rather the amount of academic work required of the student.

Lawrence stated that a lot of courses were added and not much was deactivated. She asked if the plan was to rotate courses. Ericksen answered that the idea is to offer a diverse variety of courses in rotation.

Motion passed (10-0-0)

SPANISH (Span)

MOTION (Thoma/Patterson) to approve the Spanish discipline major, minor, and course changes.

Ericksen explained that the changes in Spanish include rearranging the way students will earn credits. The time spent at the 3xxx level is reduced and more options are added at the upper division level (36xx). Scheduling conflicts are reduced at the 3xxx level. It allows a tighter focus and more clearly marked major and a greater variety of courses.

Motion passed (10-0-0)

Adjourned 1:05

Submitted by Darla Peterson