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UMM CURRICULUM COMMITTEE
2010-11 MEETING #6 Minutes
October 14, 2010, 12:00 p.m., 2200 Science

Present: Cheryl Contant (chair), Claire Dingley, Janet Ericksen, Sara Haugen, Michael Korth, Pareena Lawrence, Leslie Meek, Ian Patterson, David Roberts, Gwen Rudney, Jeri Squier, Elizabeth Thoma, Tisha Turk

Absent: Molly Donovan, Mark Fohl, Tara Greiman

Visiting: Nancy Helsper, Jeff Ratliff-Crain

In these minutes: Interdisciplinary Studies catalog changes.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES October 11, 2010

MOTION (Thoma/Patterson) to approve the October 11, 2010 minutes. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

2. INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES (IS) CATALOG CHANGES

Contant explained that five IS programs report to the Dean's Office. African American Studies, Latin American Area Studies, American Indian Studies, and Environmental Studies have submitted curricular changes for approval. European Studies has no changes at this time. In addition to these major/minor degree programs there are several courses with an IS course designator submitted for approval as well.

Because no divisional structure exists for IS programs, Contant convened a small group of faculty to review the IS proposals. The group included faculty from each division who teach an IS course or are involved in an IS program. Members were Judy Kuechle, James Wojtaszek, Chris Cole, Denise Odello, and Arne Kildegaard. All of the changes were unanimously approved by the group, with a couple of changes.

AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES (AfAm)

MOTION (Thoma/Patterson) to approve the African American Studies minor program course changes.

Contant explained that two courses were added to the minor.

Motion passed (9-0-0)

LATIN AMERICAN AREA STUDIES (LAAS)

MOTION (Thoma/Patterson) to approve the Latin American Area Studies major, minor, and course changes.

Contant stated that the changes in the LAAS program reflect changes made to courses in other disciplines as well as the deletion of courses that are longer active. The major has changed to reduce the number of times the LAAS 3100 seminar course can be used for elective credits toward the major. The number has been reduced from 8 to 4 credits.

Motion passed (9-0-0)

AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES (AmIn)

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

Contant stated that changes in the AmIn program include the addition of new courses, the deletion of courses that are no longer active, and the revision of Dakota and Anishinabe language courses, removing the FL designator and revising the course titles. Provisional courses are presented for regular approval, and two directed study courses are added: AmIn 2993 and 3993.

Lawrence noted that two of the required courses listed for the major, Anth 3451 and Soc 3441 are currently not being offered because there is not an instructor to teach them. However, Engl 2411 is listed as an option as well, so students can take it instead.

Motion passed (9-0-0)

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES (EnSt)

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

Contant explained that a couple of changes are presented for the EnSt program. Cosmetic changes involve the adjustment of the term of offering of a couple of courses already in the major. One important change has to do with increasing the capstone course from two credits to four credits, due to the nature of involvement students will have in their capstone experience. This is an experience that has not yet been formally offered. Students have been substituting other capstone experiences for that one. Some additions have been made to the list of electives.

Lawrence stated that she had not seen the term “element” and asked if it was standard language for the catalog. Contant answered that the purpose of using that language was to make it clear. Ratliff-Crain noted that he thought it seemed very clear. Lawrence stated that she just wanted to make sure it would not be an issue that will come back later and will have to be modified. It was her understanding that “sub-plan” was the standard language.

Lawrence stated that she had a concern about an enrollment cap on the capstone. If the major grows, resources will become an issue. She was concerned about how many sections they will need to offer. Dingley replied that since it is a major requirement, the course cannot be capped. Lawrence stated that additional sections can be offered, and there is currently no cap. Dingley stated that if the capstones cannot be accommodated, a limit can be placed on the number of students in the major. Lawrence replied that her concern was whether the faculty who proposed the capstone had thought about the future resource implications of changing the credits from two to four. Contant noted that she believed the EnSt faculty talked about it in their meetings and are using a model where a student would register for the course but would do their work with multiple instructors. Dingley restated that it was her perception that in the past, resources were managed by limiting the number of majors. Management was an example of that: students used to have to apply to get into the major.

Lawrence questioned whether an IC course could be listed as an elective. Contant answered that the committee had intentionally decided that IC courses could be used for electives in major or minor programs.

Motion passed (9-0-0)

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES MULTIPLE COURSE CHANGES (DEACTIVATED COURSES)

MOTION (Thoma/Patterson) to approve the proposed IS course deactivations.

Contant explained that all of the courses on the Multiple Course Change Form are deactivations. The courses are either summer programs that are no longer offered or are no longer offered with IS designators. Also, IC 1801 was provisionally approved and is being formally deactivated. The instructor who proposed it is no longer at UMM.

Motion passed (9-0-0)

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES COURSES

MOTION (Thoma/Patterson) to approve the proposed new IS courses and course change.

Contant noted that there are three IC courses that received provisional approval and are now presented for regular approval (IS 1802, 1803, and 1804). A fourth course is changing the number of prerequisite credits required for an existing course (IS 4101).

Motion passed (9-0-0)

3. CONCLUDING COMMENTS

Contant handed out a proposal for membership to the General Education Subcommittee. There were many volunteers, including nine to ten students. She chose the two students who were recommended by MCSA. Neither are seniors, so if this conversation continues into next year, they will be on campus. All four divisions are represented. The group is large, but broadly representational. Turk was chosen as the liaison from the committee, and because of her role in teaching college writing and her interest in that GER.

The members of the subcommittee are:

Carol Marxen, Education
Tammy Berberi, Humanities
Jim Togeas, Science and Math (invited)
Paula O’Loughlin, Social Science
Dave Swenson, Student Activities
Hilda Ladner, Assistant to the Chancellor for Equity and Diversity
Heather James, Library
Luciana Ranelli, Student (biology major and secondary education licensure)
Zachary Van Cleve, Student (political science major with art history, sociology, and economics minors)

The charge to the committee is:

1. Propose key factors of our mission, our culture, our history, and our vision that will influence the approach we take to general education including our Student Learning Outcomes
2. Examine alternative models for general education/liberal education at other institutions
3. Characterize those models by link to mission, curricular approach, and pedagogical style
4. Identify potential promising models for the UMM community

Thoma stated that both students are sophomores so they should be here and active throughout the process. She felt very positive in recommending them. She asked if a time or location for the meeting had been set. Contant answered that all had not formally been invited to participate yet. Korth asked if there was a target date set for the group's work. Contant answered that the goal is to have the group report to the committee by the end of November, but it may stretch into next semester. Her preference is to give them more time than less because they will help tremendously in framing the work of the Curriculum Committee. Contant added that she will send an e-mail to campus announcing the membership.

Adjourned 12:43 p.m.

Submitted by Darla Peterson