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University of Minnesota, Morris
Morris, Minnesota

MINUTES--1996-97 CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING #26

May 14, 1997; 3:00 p.m.; Behmler Conference Room

Present: Ballou, Davis, Farrell, Ellis, Frenier, Hansen, Imholte, Korth, J. Lee, Schuman, Thielke, Whelan

Absent: Bauer, Kissock, M. Lee, Vickstrom

Guest(s): None

MISCELLANEOUS:

Schuman indicated that CC members should have received copies of all of the semester proposals that have been submitted so far from the Social Sciences Division. Copies were distributed today of the social science major, women's studies, and geography proposals, as well as all of the Education Division proposals. Lee indicated that only one proposal is missing for the Social Sciences: Liberal Arts for the Human Services. Only minor revisions are required on that proposal, so it will soon be submitted to the Dean's Office.

CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF HUMANITIES DIVISION SEMESTER PROPOSALS:

Schuman reminded the group, as already communicated at the last meeting, in the minutes, and via email, that the CC had already discussed extensively the theatre arts and music proposals and their inclusion of more than 40 credits in the discipline of the major. CC members were to familiarize themselves with the arguments presented at the last meeting and start this meeting with a vote. He wondered if CC members wished to vote on the two proposals together or separately. He assumed the vote would be together. There were no objections.

MOTION (Understood): To accept the semester proposals from theatre arts and music as they were submitted.

Schuman indicated that a "no" vote would mean that the proposals must be referred back to the disciplines to come back with majors of 40 credits or less.

Ballou asked for clarification. Are we voting for no more than 40 credits in a particular area, like ArtS, or in the major? Schuman said the 40 credit limit is in a particular discipline.

Lee was very sympathetic to the music and theatre disciplines, but felt that to approve these exceptions would "open a can of worms." Other disciplines might come back with majors of 40 or 45 credits. If the Campus Assembly saw these two disciplines as the only exceptions, that would be different.

Whelan wondered, if these proposals were approved, if students would still be required to take 80 credits outside the discipline of the major. Schuman didn't think we had such a requirement now. It is stated as a 60-credit limit in a single discipline. Mooney noted that the General Education Requirements do currently say that 90 credits of general education are required. Schuman asked if music majors currently need 186 credits to graduate. Thielke said that they do.

VOTE: In favor--3; opposed--4; abstentions--1 (3-4-1).

Schuman indicated that the motion had failed by a narrow vote. Thus, the CC is sending the proposals back to the disciplines of theatre arts and music, saying they must come back with majors of 40 credits or less. He will send the remaining Humanities proposals forward to Campus Assembly, if they are approved today, without waiting for the

revisions.

English Proposal

Frenier asked if there was to be no semester course in recent literary criticism. Schuman wondered if she was referring to criticism or theory. Frenier said she meant theory. Farrell thought there was a literary theory course on the mapping form. Schuman said the Literary Criticism course under quarters does include theory in the description. That course is being deleted and the content is being incorporated into other courses. Farrell noted that Literary Criticism has not been required for the major and has been offered in alternate years.

Hansen wondered if there was going to be an Honors version of the College Writing course. Farrell said he suspected that there would be an Honors course, but nothing has come forward about a semesters Honors Program. Schuman noted that Professor O'Reilly is chairing the Honors Program Committee. Lee said O'Reilly had asked for a list of semesters Honors courses. Hansen wondered if everyone was assuming that there would be an Honors Program under semesters. Schuman said that is the assumption, but we don't know for sure.

Philosophy Proposal

Schuman noted that this is the smallest major in the Humanities Division, but not the slightest. There were no comments on the proposal.

Spanish Proposal

Frenier wondered why the course on Major Hispanic Women Writers was being deleted. Farrell said the course was offered in alternate years and did not enroll many students. The person responsible for the course decided to integrate the content into other courses. Ballou asked if the other writing courses include women authors. Farrell said, knowing the current Spanish faculty, that they do. Frenier noted that Span 3801 does mention some women authors. Schuman commented that the discipline had removed mention of specific authors in general in their course descriptions. He thought it was good to note the CC concern that it is important to include female authors.

Speech Communication Proposal

Schuman asked for any comments. There were none.

French Proposal

Schuman asked for any comments. There were none.

Humanities Division Package

Schuman said that concluded the entire set of Humanities Division semester proposals. He wondered if the CC wished to vote on them as a package.

MOTION (Korth, Lee): To accept all of the semester proposals from the Division of the Humanities, with the exception of the credits in the discipline of the major for music and theatre arts.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor (8-0-0).

SOCIAL SCIENCES DIVISION SEMESTER PROPOSALS:

Lee said he had spent a considerable amount of time going over the semester proposals in the Division of the Social Sciences. Schuman noted that there is no bulletin copy for this Division, but there are mapping forms. Lee said he had noted some discrepancies in mathematics with the numbering guidelines and thought that some of the math course numbers listed might have to be changed later.

Economics Proposal

Korth was concerned about the loss of introductory-level courses in economics. There is less opportunity for non-majors to enjoy this discipline. Lee said that is unfortunate, but the faculty had to reduce the number of courses for semesters. They felt the Principles course was a better course to keep. He said he would pass along the concern.

Ballou wondered what the rationale was for having so many two-credit courses. Lee said it works better for the discipline and students are in agreement. The two-credit option is available only for elective courses. Faculty feel it is better for students to be able to stop after two credits if they want. Schuman said his understanding was that those are really two-credit courses, not "4-credit courses in sheep's clothing." Lee said they are two-credit courses. Thielke wondered how these 2-credit offerings would be listed in the *Class Schedule*. Lee said each 2-credit course would meet for 7.5 weeks for the full number of hours each week, so if the student takes the full 4 credits, they go for the entire semester. Korth said he was not sure it was the CC's concern, but there is no withdrawal period for students taking the second 7.5 weeks.

Whelan said he was talking to a Twin Cities faculty member about the pre-pharmacy curriculum and he said that students must have microeconomics. Are we inviting problems by renaming the course and eliminating the terms "microeconomics" and "macroeconomics"? Schuman thought that would depend on what the course description says. Lee said the course will include some micro and some macro. Schuman thought it was worth raising this issue with economics faculty. In retitling the course, are they causing problems? Lee said he hoped the requirements might change to accept the Principles course. Whelan wondered if this was a national trend to go back to a combined course. Lee did not think so; it was done to reduce the number of courses. Thielke said there are other colleges which have single introductory economics courses, but the bulletin description spells out the content.

Whelan said he also was concerned about dropping so many lower-level courses. Ballou wondered how we would know if we have enough general education courses. Schuman said that the Campus Assembly first has to approve the general education proposal, then Thielke can see how the semester proposals fit with the new GER.

Schuman thought part of the explanation for the economics proposal is student demand. There are more economics majors than the discipline can handle, so they don't need to recruit majors.

Management Proposal

Schuman noted that management is a separate major from economics. They have many credits in the major, but 40 or fewer in the Mgmt discipline. Lee agreed.

History Proposal

Thielke wondered about the student-initiated studies (SIS). If a student has taken the Historical Research course under quarters, will that count as the SIS? Imholte said that it would. Lee noted that the equivalent course under semesters is Hist 4001-4002.

Ballou noted that the discipline was deleting courses that deal with women in history. Frenier said there were four

courses under quarters: one becomes an introductory level course and two become one. Nothing disappears.

Political Science

Whelan said he was asked to raise a question about the political science proposal by a statistician. Under the present bulletin, there is a statistics course which uses the same materials as a political science course, but students could get credit for both courses. Lee said Thorson had proposed a course like that, but concerns were raised in the Division and he changed the course. That situation has been corrected. The course is Pol 1300 mapped to 2101.

Korth said he did not understand the counting. The summary says there are 20 courses, but he counted 34. Lee said there are three different topic areas. He had checked with Mooney about counting topics courses and was told to count only the generic heading.

Farrell thought the institution should make clear what is to be done with topics courses. He had told faculty not to bring forward specific topics. This confusion about topics courses keeps coming up. Lee said the discipline could revise the forms. There are topics courses which are not going to go away. They will usually be offered in alternate years. Schuman thought that a course that was going to be offered regularly should be listed as a regular course. Farrell thought there should be flexibility, but, on the other hand, he is pretty sure which Humanities topics will be offered in the next few years. Thielke said it was better for students' sake to list the specific topics in the bulletin if we know which ones will be offered. Farrell said the Humanities topics are offered when feasible. Schuman noted that the political science discipline cannot guarantee that their topics will be offered every time. Lee said they could list the possible topics in the course description. Farrell wondered if Humanities could do something similar. Schuman said they could. The rest is editorial. The CC is getting into editorial policy rather than curricular policy. Are we comfortable with having general topic rubrics? If so, the Dean's Office will work out a consistent listing.

Korth said the problem with topics courses is that they aren't listed in the bulletin. The specific topics are listed elsewhere. He thought the specific topics should be included in the bulletin. Lee said it is more flexible to allow for changes in the offerings. The discipline is not trying to hide any courses.

Thielke reiterated that it is better to list the specific topics and when they will be offered, if we know.

Schuman wondered if CC members wished to continue for an extra 15 minutes and finish the Social Sciences proposals. The answer was no.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 16, 9:00 a.m., Education 211, to continue the discussion of Social Sciences semester proposals and begin discussion of Education semester proposals.

Meeting adjourned 4:15 p.m.
Submitted by Nancy Mooney

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