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University of Minnesota, Morris
Morris, Minnesota

MINUTES—1998-99 CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING #02

October 21, 1998; 8:00 a.m.; Behmler Conference Room

Present: Cerar, Farrell, Frenier, Korth, Lee, Leroux, McIntosh, Neuharth, Thielke, Utoft

Absent: Busch, Haugen, Kissock, Taylor, Woll

Guest: Mooney

[In these minutes: approval of prior minutes, editorial change for Mgmt 4896, EDP funds, Honors Program Committee.]

MISCELLANEOUS: Veenendaal distributed copies of the charge to the Honors Program Committee in the UMM Bylaws, and History of EDP Funding table.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Korth asked if there were any additions or corrections to the previous minutes. Since there were no additions or corrections, Korth asked for approval by voice vote of the minutes.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor (9-0-0)

REQUEST TO MAKE "EDITORIAL CHANGE" IN LISTING FOR MGMT 4896: Korth asked Lee if the Social Science division had approved the current listing for Management 4896. Lee stated that it was an oversight noticed belatedly after the Semester Transition Course Catalog was already printed. The internship required 15 credits in the quarter system. The intent was to list the semester course as 1-4 credits rather than 2 so there was some built in flexibility. Lee requested that the Curriculum Committee (CC) treat this as an editorial change. He urged the CC to approve this proposal. Korth wondered if this had been approved by the division. Lee said the Division had not acted on the change. However, there was a Division meeting scheduled for later that day, so he offered to get the approval if needed. Mooney said the CC could approve this proposal pending Division approval. Korth asked if there were any more comments or questions. Since there were none, Korth asked for a voice vote.

Motion (Understood): To approve the change in Mgmt 4896 from 2 credits to "1-4 credits, max 2 credits may be applied to the major or minor."

Vote: Unanimous in favor (9-0-0)

Korth confirmed that the proposal was approved. He then asked if this needed to go to Campus Assembly since it had not come through the Division. Thielke said that was not necessary if it is an editorial change and is printed in the bulletin. Mooney said in the past a credit change was not considered an editorial change but it is up to the committee and the chair to make this decision. Lee stated these things were bound to happen with the massive number of changes that took place. Lee offered to get the division approval in case CC feels this needs to be referred to Campus Assembly. Korth agreed that would be best.

EDP GRANT PROGRAM: Korth summarized the discussion during the last meeting regarding the \$7,500 EDP funds for 1998-99. The question was whether to direct the 1998-99 EDP funds to the Common Course as in the past two years or return to the usual practice of inviting proposals from across the campus for course development. The CC had discussed in the last meeting the option of not setting aside this years funds for the Common Course. The CC was on the verge of voting when the meeting was adjourned. Korth wondered if there were any questions or comments or if anyone needed more explanation.

Lee explained the intent behind his proposal that the EDP funds continue to be directed for Common Course development for this year. Lee feels the question is moot since he received a memo from Chancellor Schuman and Roland Guyotte indicating that a \$1,000 stipend would be paid to faculty working on development of the Common

Course. He did not know the source of funding beyond the \$15,000 already committed from EDP. The Common Course was voted in by Campus Assembly to be instituted in 1999 and on. Our concern was, unlike the previous Inquiry program, we wanted to make different features prominent and find a more successful approach. Pride and prestige of this program is essential. In the past UMM had 70 National Merit Scholars enrolled. UMM had very selective admissions. Last year this was not the situation. We need a positive reputation for the campus. Yudof believes every student should be treated like an honor student, and the Common Course should aid this goal. Lee felt that one more year of these funds directed to Common Course could insure successful results.

Lee feels it is more effective to use carrots in the form of dollars as an incentive (rather than pressure) to create the Common Course. He feels the EDP funds would be a good incentive for faculty to volunteer. He feels that a minimum of \$1,000 should be used as a faculty stipend. Lee felt \$200 - \$300 was not enough. He felt that priority should be given to the Common Course if there was a combined focus for EDP funds. If there would be any funds remaining after meeting the \$1,000 demands, they should be given over to another desirable source.

Frenier wondered how they arrived at the sum of \$1,000. Lee said it was an arbitrary number. Frenier felt that \$1,000 was not much. Lee agreed and said that is why he would like to freeze the EDP funds for this year so the funding could be more substantial. McIntosh said the CC had committed the EDP funds to the Common Course for two years. Lee said the money is committed if we can find it. McIntosh said we have committed it, that is not the issue. McIntosh has consulted with Science and Math faculty regarding the Common Course. Most faculty are committed to the idea of the course and would help with development for nothing. Any dollars they would receive are a bonus. McIntosh said the CC has already expressed commitment by allocating \$15,000 to the Common Course.

Korth requested a motion.

MOTION: (McIntosh, Farrell) To open up EDP funds for all faculty for course proposals.

VOTE: In favor 7; Opposed 2; Abstentions 0

Korth added that since the motion passed, the CC would need to set up an EDP subcommittee. He referred members to the handout of the history of the EDP funding. Korth noted that each subcommittee consisted of three members: a division chair, faculty member, and a student member. The EDP committee would initially think about whether there should be a specific focus. The group would then send out proposal requests to the campus. The EDP subcommittee would screen the proposals that are returned and bring a recommendation to the Curriculum Committee. Korth asked for volunteers.

Lee nominated McIntosh who agreed to serve on the committee. Cerar and Farrell also agreed to serve on this committee. Farrell will serve as chair.

McIntosh reminded the CC of the concern Kissock voiced at the last meeting. Kissock had pointed out that the EDP fund amount had been constant since 1990, possibly since 1985. McIntosh wondered if there was any possibility of an increase in this allotment. Korth stated that he had talked with Chancellor Schuman. Schuman agreed there should be an increase. He knew he would be unable to double the amount, as Korth had requested. Schuman said he would try to increase the allotment significantly for next year. Schuman stated that this year he needs to find the dollars that have disappeared plus additional dollars to meet the \$1,000 per faculty member for the Common Course.

Korth requested the subcommittee to report to the CC by mid-winter quarter with their recommendations for an emphasis.

HONORS PROGRAM COMMITTEE: Korth stated that last year the CC voted on the recommendation of the director of the Honors Program and the Chair of the Honors Program Committee to eliminate the Honors Committee. This was forwarded to the Campus Assembly, who rejected that proposal. Campus Assembly instead proposed that the CC create a new adjunct committee to oversee the Honors Program, UROP, and MAP. Korth questioned how to go about this. He feels this will require some time for discussion. Thielke stated there was one charge for the Honors Program Committee: she wondered if the CC had the semester version of the Honors Program. Korth said a substantial change was not needed. Mooney said the Honors Program converted easily since it was based on an annual total. Korth

stated that the catalog had already been submitted with the section on honors. Mooney said the only change Chancellor Schuman made was stating that participants must complete four honors activities per year, 2 per semester (rather than 1 each quarter).

Thielke said it seems straight-forward, but it requires the same number of honors courses for the student under semesters where the student takes fewer courses. She questioned if we are offering enough courses. If we continue with the same number of requirements it results in being a larger percentage of the degree. Leroux wondered if CC had looked at how we are doing; how many courses we are offering. Mooney said we are offering 13 now [later: 16]. Leroux wondered if UMM would be losing honors courses in the semester transition. Mooney felt we probably would since the number of courses would be reduced by a third.

Frenier wondered how many students participate in the Honors Program. Veenendaal read aloud the total number of honors graduates for the years as follows:

1988-93 N/A

1993-94 18

1994-95 7

1995-96 13

1996-97 10

1997-98 10

5-Year Average 12

[Corrected 1996-97, 1997-98 later.]

Thielke wondered if the carrot is gone for the students. She stated that more students do sign up for honors and participate in convocation, but even the seniors drift away when faced with the senior project. Frenier wondered if the senior project is the problem.

McIntosh asked if there was any existing support for honors research. Thielke said there was none. McIntosh said the Honors Program is less attractive than MAP and UROP since there is no monetary support.

Frenier wondered if the honors courses fill up. Utoft said they are always full. If the courses are not filled with honors students, non-honors students are able to register for the courses. Thielke said it seems to be an ideal time to reorganize the Honors Program and to bring in other aspects. She suggested that CC get input from Sharon VanEps, other support staff, and people on the Honors Program Committee to look at the Honors Program and restructure. Leroux stated CC should also bring in people from UROP and MAP to help CC sort through the objectives and see what is needed or wanted in the way of support.

Frenier would like the CC to look at the faculty and student experience with honors. She feels this needs to be reassessed. Thielke expressed surprise that there are so few honors graduates with so many participants. She feels we need to start with Sharon VanEps to see the number of participants in the program.

Lee inquired if some honors courses are only for honors students and other courses can become honors courses with additional work. Mooney stated some courses are listed as honors and also as non-honors. Lee wondered if a non-honors student could register for any honors course. Thielke said some courses are designated as honors only. Leroux wondered if a non-honors student took a course, would that student receive honors credit. Thielke said the credit would be non-honors credit. Thielke said an instructor could request that non-honors students not be allowed in the course. If a course has an honors designation but the instructors don't request that the course be closed to non-honors students, the Registrar's office does not stop the student from registering.

Leroux wondered if there was an honors course with room for 20 students but only 9 honors students signed up, would you teach the class with 9 students or bring the number up to 14-15 with non-honors students. Thielke said College Writing and Public Speaking were two courses that are in high demand. The honors courses for these two fill up since the space is needed. If only honors students were allowed to register and there were 60 students waiting, it would be

hard to designate that only honors students could register.

Frenier felt that 20 students were a lot for an honors course. Mooney read aloud from the UMM Bulletin that honors courses are limited to a class size of 20. This was discussed extensively by the CC. CC members thought honors courses should be smaller, but recognized that we have too few courses to meet demand.

McIntosh wondered if UMM has the resources to carry out the Honors Program. Frenier asked about the compensation for a faculty member to supervise a senior project. Leroux said compensation was pride. Lee added prestige. Farrell stated that it was similar to directed studies; also compensation is small class size.

Korth said at the present time the Honors Program Committee has not been appointed. He has been told it will be appointed for the year. Korth will double check on this. He stated that Matt Senior was the director of the Honors Program. Korth will ask him to come talk to the Curriculum Committee.

Korth said the CC was asked to consider combining the Honors Program Committee with the other two programs, UROP and MAP. Korth feels the CC will need to take some time to consider what to recommend and what the best course of action would be. Frenier suggested talking to Matt Senior and others who were involved in the Honors Program Committee in the past. Korth will see who would be available to attend the next CC meeting.

McIntosh suggested compiling a report on the number of honors students from each grade level over the past years. He also suggested receiving the same information for the MAPs and UROP students, watching for overlap between the three programs.

Frenier requested a report on the number of honors courses offered last year and the enrollment figure for those classes. McIntosh stated that half of the Inquiry sections were listed as honors so there was no problem for Freshman to be enrolled in an honors course. Thielke said it was the same for College Writing. She also stated that in the past UMM generated an interest in honors when the Director was allowed to speak at Freshman registration. He has since been moved off the agenda and interest has subsided.

Frenier wondered if other institutions still have an Honors Program. She questioned if honors is on the decline nationally and if UMM is seeing part of a national trend. Leroux suggested the possibility that the decline may be commensurate with the increase in the number of double and triple majors. Mooney said this is not the case. Leroux wondered if the students begin with an interest in the Honors Program but are unable to keep up with the work required. Utoft commented that she is unaware of a single honors student. Cerar commented that she is kept busy with two minors and a major. Leroux stated that some of the benefits of the honors experience are not necessarily tied to the completion of the program. He suggested that UMM may be accomplishing more with the program than is recognized. Frenier suggested that the Honors Program Committee talk to students and faculty to assess their experiences with the program.

Korth said he would attempt to bring people with some experience in the Honors Program to the next meeting. He then adjourned the meeting.

Meeting adjourned 8:50 a.m.
Submitted by Melody Veenendaal

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