

9-27-2018

Curriculum minutes 09/27/2018

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Curriculum Committee, "Curriculum minutes 09/27/2018" (2018). *Curriculum Committee Minutes*. 357.
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UMM CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

2018-19 MEETING #4 Minutes

September 27, 11:40 a.m., Moccasin Flower Room

Members Present: Janet Ericksen (chair), Stacey Aronson, Arne Kildegaard, Peh Ng, Michelle Page, Stephen Crabtree, Stephen Gross, Benjamin Narvaez, Denise Odello, Simon Franco, Stephanie Ferrian, Christina Munoz, Annika Nelson, Josh Westfield, Kellie Meehlhause, and Judy Korn

Members Absent: None

Visitors: Nancy Helsper, Jeri Squier, Rebecca Dean, and Terri Hawkinson

In these minutes: Division of the Social Sciences Catalog Program and Course Changes

Introductions and Announcements

Ericksen asked for clarification on the provisional approval of courses process. Squier explained that Morris is the only campus in the system that is using the provisional approval process and PCAS doesn't distinguish between courses that have regular or provisional approval. Once a course is active it appears in the catalog. A provisional course is in the catalog for the duration of that catalog. Ericksen asked how disciplines remember which courses are provisional. Squier explained that she keeps a spreadsheet and each catalog cycle she sends out a notice to ask if the course(s) should go forward for regular approval. If the answer is no, she removes the course and it does not appear in the next catalog. Ericksen stated that disciplines then have two choices when a provisionally approved course has gone through one catalog cycle: regular approval or removal. Ng noted that you can look at a course in ECAS and at the bottom it will say if it has provisional or regular approval. Squier cautioned that it's not 100% clear because sometimes both are checked. Hawkinson stated that she looks in the notes section of the ECAS form to see if it has had Campus Assembly approval.

Nelson announced that she was voted in as secretary of academic affairs of the Morris Campus Student Association (MCSA). In spring semester MCSA will be looking at Gen Eds. She would like gather information and create a survey on Gen Eds that she can report back to the Curriculum Committee.

Division of the Social Sciences Catalog Program and Course Changes

Anthropology (ANTH)

Kildegaard stated that Anthropology did a fairly major program revision. The structure of the major has changed with some flushing out of electives to fit the existing personnel. Korn asked whether the change to allow 2 credits of a 4000-level course to be taken S-N should apply to a specific course. Dean answered that the intent is that students would only take the senior seminar (ANTH 4902) S-N. It was agreed that the wording “. . . with the exception of up to 2 credits of ANTH 4xxx which may be taken S-N and counted toward the major requirements” be changed to “. . . with the exception of ANTH 4902 which may be taken S-N and counted toward the major requirements.” Kildegaard noted that there are 16 courses with minor changes to either the timing of the offerings or a change of prerequisites, and one with a title change. Ericksen asked if the three courses with prerequisite changes will make it easier for students to take the courses. Dean answered that it will allow more students to take the courses. Kildegaard added that two course are changing the Gen Ed. ANTH 3502 is changing from SS to HDIV, and ANTH 3704 is adding the Gen Ed of SCI. Ng noted that she sent a message to the Science and Mathematics faculty to ask them if they have any objections about the SCI designator on ANTH 3704—Anthropological Genetics. Courses 4412 and 4902 will change from an A-F grading option to OPT.

ANTH 4412 is an alternative to 4411, which is also A-F. Both are capstones and one must be taken as the prerequisite to 4902, the only course with OPT grading. ANTH is proposing two new courses. ANTH 1865–Vikings, Aliens, and Ancient Idols: Evaluating Evidence in Archaeology, is a new IC course. ANTH 3204–Culture, Food, and Agriculture is an old course that is being reactivated.

MOTION (Kildegaard/Franco): To approve the proposed program and course changes in Anthropology.

VOTE: (13-0-0)

Economics (ECON)

Kildegaard stated that Economics is proposing the addition of three new courses to the upper division level, making some slight name changes to existing courses, updating courses to reflect when they are actually offered, and deactivating a course. The proposed change to the courses that add ENGL 1601–Writing for the Liberal Arts or equivalent as a prerequisite was narrowly approved by the division. There will be a similar batch of changes in Management later so the following discussion pertains to both disciplines.

Economics and Management are ground zero for incoming students from the Shanghai University of Finance and Economics (SUFU) in China. The students arrive having taken some preparatory ECON classes in Shanghai and want to launch into the 3xxx-level curriculum at UMM. They have not taken WLA or its equivalent by the time they arrive for their first year at UMM. Many 3xxx-level courses require only ECON 1111–Principles of Microeconomics and yet they have writing components. We find the students have difficulty with the courses because they have not taken WLA. That’s the pedagogical reason for the proposed changes.

Squier noted that for SUFU students there is only 1 section of WLA available in the fall and 3 sections in the spring. Ericksen added that there will be staff implications for WLA if the proposal is approved. Kildegaard noted that the students could be directed into a 3xxx-level course that doesn’t have writing implications. Korn asked if the prerequisite would be enforced. Kildegaard answered that intent of ECON is to enforce the prerequisite. Korn noted that it will also impact students other than SUFU students. If it’s a soft prerequisite students will figure that out right away. Secondly, we don’t have any equivalents at this time for WLA. Kildegaard answered that the word “equivalent” came from the discipline. It was a friendly amendment in the division to add it. So could it be automatically enforced? Korn stated that students would be dealt with individually. Ericksen asked if it would be easier to remove “or equivalent?” Odello noted that there are courses that only require permission numbers and that would take care of it. Narvaez stated that it would put those students at a disadvantage for course registration. Squier added that another issue is if a student doesn’t have the prerequisite they can’t get on a waiting list. Ericksen stated that we already have an issue with SUFU students who come here with the intent to transfer to the Twin Cities. Will this result in more transfers to the Twin Cities? Kildegaard answered that if they stay here they will have to have taken ENGL 1601 anyway. They just can’t take these courses without having taken 1601. Nelson if we required permission numbers there should be a way to communicate ahead of time that permission numbers exist and this is how you to get them. Dean stated that she was concerned that this might become something where SUFU students have to do this, but if you have an English name then you don’t have to do it. How do you decide if their skills are good enough? Ericksen stated that it would only apply to transfer students regardless of where they came from. Others will take the normal sequence before they take the 3xxx-level courses.

MOTION (Kildegaard/Ng): To approve the proposed program and course changes in Economics (with the exception of the courses requiring the 1601 prerequisite which will be brought back after more discussion by the division).

VOTE: (13-0-0)

Geography (GEOG)

Kildegaard stated that the only change in Geography is the timing of offering of one course.

MOTION (Kildegaard/Ng): To approve the proposed course change in Geography.

VOTE: (13-0-0)

History (HIST)

Kildegaard stated that there are no real program changes in History. Three courses are being deactivated because the temporary instructor who taught them is no longer at UMM. The timing of several courses has been updated to reflect actual scheduling, and the Gen Ed E/CR more accurately fits HIST 3021– Gender and Sexuality in African History than the previous Gen Ed of HDIV. Additional optional prerequisites have also been added to the course. Ericksen asked if E/CR matches the Gen Ed category description. Kildegaard answered that it was discussed in the division meeting. The instructor explained that the course does not “increase students’ . . . knowledge of the traditions and values of various groups in the United States,” but rather focuses on Africa. Rather, the course “broaden[s] and develop[s] students’ capacity to question and reflect upon their own and society’s values and critical responsibilities” by introducing advanced students in GWSS, HIST, ANTH, and other students interested in social justice to human rights issues in Africa.

MOTION (Kildegaard/Narvaez): To approve the proposed course changes in History.

VOTE: (13-0-0)

Submitted by Darla Peterson