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Curriculum Committee Minutes

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UMN MORRIS CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

2019-2020 Meeting #1 Minutes

September 12, 2019, 11:40 a.m., Moccasin Flower Room

Members Present: Janet Ericksen (Chair), Stacey Aronson, Stephen Crabtree, Simón Franco, Stephen Gross, Arne Kildegaard, Ben Narvaez, Peh Ng, Denise Odello, Julia Scovil, Jeri Squier

Members Absent: Elmurad Abbasov, John Barber, Adrienne Conley, Stephanie Ferrian, Gwen Rudney

Others present: Stephen Burks, Bibhu Panda, Rebecca Dean

**In these minutes: Economics and Management Program Review presentation
General Education Requirement Designation Approval**

#2 Econ/Mgmt program review discussion

Ericksen reviewed the background of program reviews. All program reviews in the current cycle have now been received, and the cycle will be complete once all programs have presented to Curriculum Committee. A new cycle of review will then begin; updates to the process are being discussed by Division Chairs and the Dean.

The Economics and Management program review, submitted last spring and reviewed by the Dean and DCs, was shared with the Curriculum Committee in advance of the discussion of key strengths, challenges, and plans. Burks and Panda presented.

Economics

Program review covered 5 years of data. Surveyed students expressed wish for more variety in electives and the way classes are offered. Question raised asking if students are looking for more courses or a more variety of courses. Currently there is a core of economics courses and everything else is elective. Changes were made to the Senior Seminar to allow more flexibility so it is now offered as two 2-credit classes. International students make up approximately half of the enrollment. Squier asked about 4xxx level course offerings. It was noted that there were more offered when enrollment was higher.

Management

Program review covered 5 years of data. Program draws from many areas. The program is not comparable to business programs at business schools, but is comparable to programs at other liberal arts colleges. No 1xxx courses contribute to general education requirements, but 3xxx level classes do. International students result in higher advising load on faculty. Enrollment in this major is down, but so is overall campus enrollment and the number of international students. Students are looking for more specialization. In looking at how to offer more courses, there is consideration of online classes from UMN Crookston. The Management program overlaps with other academic areas, which reflects well its liberal arts college identity. The program has faced challenges in hiring because of private sector salaries.

Discussion about webpage language and search engine keywords: what does “business” yield when searched for on the Morris website? Can prospective students easily understand why they could and should study management here, for instance, if they are interested in a career in business? Ericksen expressed support for online courses with Crookston. Further, Crookston students could remotely attend class here at Morris as well. Economics might benefit more from this. Ng asked about sub-plans in Management. Financial and organizational management has more course offerings than other sub-plans. Faculty that could offer more upper level classes have been redirected to upper management duties.

Students and families are interested in internship opportunities. Riverview Dairy will do internships. Superior Industries doesn’t regularly offer internships. The Management program is working with the alumni office to connect students with alumni and with the ACE office to pursue training for job preparedness. This could be a 1-credit course for job preparedness. Another option might be working with local retired business owners/managers, and perhaps there are grant opportunities to hire that type of a person. A course taught by a non-academic professional might be rolled out to more than economics and management majors. Ed Brands offers pre-internship training as part of the Env’t Studies major, and a similar model might be utilized in Econ or Mgmt.

#3 ECAS instructions draft for website

Squier wrote up a workflow to guide proposing a new course or program. Ericksen shared the new course proposal workflow. It does need to have information about the catalog cycle added. Once it is finalized it will be uploaded to the website. The group was in agreement with its use.

#4 GenEd for directed study request

Curriculum Committee is being asked to approve a student’s request for a directed study course to carry a Gen Ed designation. The instructor supports the creation of an annotated bibliography as a 4xxx level course, and the description of the course appears to align with the Gen Ed category requested. The group questioned the criteria to approve this request. R. Dean offered that the course should meet the Gen Ed requirement from her perspective in anthropology. The form may, however, benefit from revision so that it better reflects the preference for students to fulfill requirements in regular classes. A directed study doesn’t allow us to count the student in a class. It is more expensive because it is between one student and one instructor, outside of regular instructional workload. As the form stands, however, the vote can be made only on whether or not the course meets the requirements for the Gen Ed category requested.

MOTION (Ericksen, Franco) made to approve the Request for Directed Study General Education Designation.

VOTE: 8-1-0

All other items postponed.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Robyn VanEps