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Curriculum Committee Minutes

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9-26-2019

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# UMN MORRIS CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

2019-2020 Meeting #2 Minutes

September 26, 2019, 11:40 a.m., Moccasin Flower Room

Members Present: Janet Ericksen (Chair), Stacey Aronson, Adrienne Conley, Stephen Crabtree, Stephanie Ferrian, Anika Finzen, Simón Franco, Stephen Gross, Arne Kildegaard, Ben Narvaez, Peh Ng, Julia Scovil, Jeri Squier

Members Absent: Denise Odello, Gwen Rudney

Others present: Rebecca Dean, Tricia Rohloff (representing Education)

## **In these minutes: GenEd program planning**

### #1 Welcome and announcements

Student representation has changed. Elmurad Abbasov and John Barber are no longer members and Anika Finzen has been added. Ericksen would like to have at least one more student member.

### #2 Approval of Minutes from Meeting #1 - September 12, 2019

Deferred. Link to agenda and the minutes were not working for everyone.

### #3 GenEd program planning for year

Ericksen began with some history of the discussions that have been occurring for many years, as well as committees and work groups. No significant changes have been made. What could have a better success rate? Need to examine current and determine future.

Ericksen outlined the following core criteria for our General Education program:

1. GenEd flexibility for students and faculty/disciplines
2. Interdisciplinary (multiple disciplines) or multi-disciplinary (single topic from perspective of multiple disciplines) requirements
3. Must be fairly easily, concisely, and consistently explained and understood by internal and external audiences. (Why do we have 2 science requirements? There were multiple responses.)
4. Could be UMN Morris distinctive – or might not be where we choose to be “Morris distinctive”
5. Must be mission-consistent and assessable

Gross shared that he spent time looking at the history of Morris General Education. Dean noted that it should support the mission, but does not need to meet the whole thing. Ericksen noted that at minimum, one area to change before the next catalog is the “foreign language” requirement heading. Native American languages are included in this category and they are not “foreign” languages.

Ericksen identified three sub-groups of committee members:

- A) Stacey Aronson, Peh Ng, Ben Narvaez, Simón Franco, John Barber [note: replaces Anika Finzen]
- B) Arne Kildegaard, Gwen Rudney, Denise Odello, Jeri Squier, Julia Scovil
- C) Janet Ericksen, Steve Gross, Stephen Crabtree, Stephanie Ferrian, Adrienne Conley, Rebecca Dean [note: Josh Westfield added at 10/10/19 meeting]

Each group will work, at least until January, on a proposal or proposals for a General Education program that meet the five fundamental criteria above and may or may not be a significant revision of what we currently have. The one-piece-at-a-time approach has not worked, at least not for the last decade and more. Ericksen will try to utilize CC meetings for work time, but the groups may wish to meet outside of CC meetings as well. Ericksen will also invite the campus to submit proposals, with a deadline of mid-January (or maybe December?). The hope is to have a short list of options to present to campus early in spring semester, for discussion at various fora and then possibly in Campus Assembly.

Gross asked if everything is fair game. He is struggling a bit with criteria that has to fit into our history. Ericksen expressed that we shouldn't be caught in what didn't work in the past. The goal should be to come up with models that are fleshed out and realistic. We need, too, not to be worried at this point about discipline representation; we will try to encourage people not to think of GenEd in terms of hanging onto their own discipline-specific areas. More flexibility to students may result in lowering enrollment in some areas, but GenEd cannot be structured with the primary criteria including enrollment in every discipline.

With any GenEd program proposal, there would not be any changes to the requirement of 60 credits outside of major and majors should not consider a GenEd program change as a reason to add to their major program requirements. Franco asked about 3 credit courses, which would change it from 15 courses to 20 courses. This would be a larger and more complicated change, but may be part of a proposal.

#### #4 Academic Program Review schedule

We hope to have final reports from Elementary Ed on Oct. 10 and Music on Oct. 24. There are still other programs to hear from, and it is not likely all those will be completed this fall, but they should be finished early in spring semester (HMSV, MedSt, Studio Art, NAIS, GWSS). Ericksen shared that the next cycle (revised requirements and process) will start spring 2020.

#### #5 Educational Development Program

The Educational Development Program provides funds to create or revise courses and a subcommittee looks at those applications. There is no longer an International program committee to review International Program requests. They could be added to the EDP program and the ACE office could be included in the review of the international ones.

Both applications will provide parameters. Ferrian shared that there are on-campus and off-campus opportunities. Ericksen would like to send out the call for both applications to reduce emails to faculty. ACE office could provide priorities for the international applications.

We no longer have additional funding from the NASNTI grant.

Ericksen reviewed what last year's priorities were.

There were 12-15 applications for EDP last year. There are approximately 7 international per year. Narvaez suggested courses that contribute to interdisciplinary or multiple majors. Preference for new, but also for revising a course. (Need to consult with affected disciplines.) If a proposal is for an Honor program, it would be sent to Honors coordinator for review. Still support for 2<sup>nd</sup> half classes – especially Gen Ed lower level (Scovil noted that students need more communication about 2-credit courses – do they have prerequisites?) Add international on campus courses as priority. Could still keep Native courses as a priority even if no NASNTI funds (on current grant). Courses with rural/local/regional component – courses that speak to a sense of place (this place) or rural vs urban (include Native).

MOTION (Crabtree, Gross) made to approve the criteria for EDP/IPC applications to be: 2<sup>nd</sup> half semester courses, Honors, Interdisciplinary, Sense of place, International. VOTE: 10-0-0

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Robyn VanEps