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Curriculum Committee Minutes

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11-5-2020

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#### Recommended Citation

Curriculum Committee, "Curriculum minutes 11/05/2020" (2020). *Curriculum Committee Minutes*. 383. <https://digitalcommons.morris.umn.edu/curriculum/383>

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## **UMN Morris Curriculum Committee**

November 5, 2020, 1:00 p.m. Meeting #10

Zoom

Members Present: Janet Ericksen (Chair), Stacey Aronson, John Barber, Barbara Burke, Rebecca Dean, Jennifer Deane, Simón Franco, Nic McPhee, Marcus Muller, Ben Narvaez, Peh Ng, Michelle Page, Emily Wittkop

Members Absent: Cameron Berthiaume, Stephen Gross, Shanda Pittman

Others present: Emma Kloos, Jeri Squier, Robyn VanEps

### **In these minutes: Catalog changes Interdisciplinary Studies**

#### #1 Welcome and announcements

Catalog clean up will occur at next week's meeting, along with more discussion of the writing requirement. Please provide any clean up courses to the dean's office by Friday afternoon.

#### #2 Catalog changes - Interdisciplinary Studies

Motion from Narvaez to approve catalog changes for ABAS, second by Franco. Minimal changes. No addition or subtraction of courses. Introduction language changed to include language that is standard for other IS programs. Electives in the program have been reorganized to align clearly with the PSLOs. Squier wants to remove the PSLO reference that prefaces each group of electives (PSLO 1:) since students would probably not understand the reference. The committee agreed. Motion passed (10-0-0)

Motion from McPhee to approve catalog changes for Environmental Studies, second by Deane. Change made because ENST 2101 is no longer offered. The biology series is the replacement. Three courses with provisional courses need regular approval. Burke commented that this major has a high credit requirement. Ericksen agreed that it is high, but it was previously approved that way; the revisions are within the existing upper limit of credits for the major, although students no longer have the option of taking 54 credits and must take 57. McPhee also shared concern about the high number of credits required. Ericksen commented that a larger conversation about the number of required credits in majors would be appropriate since Environmental Studies is not alone in requiring so many credits. Narvaez noted that concern about this has come up for years. There was agreement that it should be discussed, along with GenEd reform, for the next catalog. We will include this topic as an agenda item in the spring semester. Deane suggested that the focus could be on the student experience. Ericksen will share with Campus Assembly the concern about the number of credits. Narvaez commented that a high credit requirement limits the student from opportunities within the 4-year/120-credit graduation plan. Page agreed and also is concerned about transfer students. Flexibility is important for all students. Motion passed (9-0-0).

Motion from Barber to approve catalog changes for Honors, second by Page. Seven courses are being deactivated and three are being added for a net change of a loss of four. Two courses with provisional approval need regular approval. Burke asked about program learning outcomes. There are no changes to their PSLOs. Dean understood that they have just one, but there are three. Motion passed (10-0-0).

Motion from Franco to approve catalog changes for LAAS, second by Deane. There is an increase of three elective options and a few deactivations. These updates to course options reflect changes in contributing disciplines. Motion passed (10-0-0).

Motion from Deane to approve catalog changes for Medieval Studies, second by Page. The major would like to change the major title to Medieval and Ancient Studies. This change will need to be approved by the Board of Regents. This would allow a wider set of options in early studies, which is both important since some medieval studies faculty are not as available as they were (Deane and Ericksen) and because it opens up greater interdisciplinary possibilities among Morris courses. Narvaez commented that chronologically, the title might be better putting Ancient first. He is also excited to see it open up for more global perspective. Motion passed (9-0-0).

Motion from Ng to approve catalog changes for NAIS, second by Franco. The discipline is increasing elective options, but not the credit requirement for the major. Provisional courses are seeking regular approval. A few courses are being deactivated. NAIS 2213 was developed as a COPLAC course and they hope it can be offered again as a shared course. Motion passed (9-0-0).

Motion from Ng to approve catalog changes for Sustainability Leadership (minor), second by McPhee. No changes to requirements, but clarifications made to each category (descriptions in headings). It is past the implementation phase so petition information is included now. Motion passed (8-0-1).

Ericksen noted that the College Pathways courses (IS 1101, 1102--FYE courses) are not coming forward for regular approval because the instructors of the pilot sections want to rethink the course. Next year will be another pilot year in order to allow for more development. McPhee asked about hearing from the team currently teaching the course. Ericksen expects a report from them to the committee in the spring. Motion from Deane to approve the two IC courses, IS 1061 and IS 1817, seconded by McPhee. Motion passed (9-0-0).

Writing requirement revision. Does the committee think we are ready to bring forward the proposals for a vote at Campus Assembly or should we hold early next semester so that additional discussion can occur? Ng shared that in her division, one person requested to discuss the requirement at the division meetings that include student representatives. Franco commented that the Curriculum Committees meetings are open to anyone. McPhee agreed, but commented that we don't really have sufficient time at committee meetings for additional discussion. Franco asked about adding one meeting where the divisions could be invited. Dean

commented that consultation has been done, and we cannot really expect universal approval. Consultation has happened at two campus conversations (one last spring and one this fall), as well with Scholastic Committee and MCSA forum. Each division has a representation (the DC and another faculty member) on Curriculum Committee and could discuss the proposals at any time with their division. Dean feels it should go forward with the vote at Campus Assembly. Ng will share with her division that it will be an action item on November 17. Ericksen will share the summary document with the committee in advance of next week's meeting.