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Curriculum Committee Minutes

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1-28-2021

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UMN Morris Curriculum Committee

January 28, 2021, 11:40 a.m. Meeting #12

Zoom

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

Members Absent: none

Others present: Jeri Squier, Robyn VanEps

In these minutes: Catalog cleanup

#1 Welcome and announcements

Welcome to the first meeting of spring semester, and this semester we do not have to meet weekly!

The Writing Board is in place and will meet tomorrow (Stacey Aronson, Rebecca Dean, Nic McPhee, Josh Johnson, Emily Wittkop, with Janet Ericksen attending at least initially, too). They will refine the TC questions and the request will swiftly go out to faculty who wish to have a W designation on fall (or later) courses. Rebecca Dean asked about being on the board and submitting a course for review. This is allowed, with the stipulation that members of the board would not vote on their own course.

Thank you to the Curriculum Innovation Grant review committee. Ericksen will work with Susan Schmidgall to determine if course proposals meet with the requirements of the funding from the donor.

#2 Approval of minutes

Motion and second (Barber, McPhee) to approve minutes from Meeting #11 - November 12, 2020. Motion passed (11-0-0).

#3 Catalog changes - Cleanup

Humanities has 17 courses with provisional approval that are requesting full approval. They have all been taught previously. Ericksen clarified that the DC's have approved them, but they need the vetting of regular approval. Aronson shared that all courses were approved by Humanities on January 21. Most courses are part of a rotation and have been received well by students. Hum 3108 is a core class with Fren 3108 and Span 3108 - they make a 4-credit "sandwich". Co-enrollment is required for first time enrollment, but it isn't reflected in ECAS. Fren/Span 3108 may be taken multiple times. Aronson clarified that it is encouraged, but not required to take all three classes together. This will need to be communicated to advisers and success coaches. Page asked about Engl 1126 (children's lit). Education has similar courses, however one is not available broadly. Ericksen believes that the Engl course would not be marketed to Education students, but rather is offered as a 1xxx level course designed to engage

any and all students in the study of literature; this is an area in which students expressed interest to English faculty. McPhee asked about Engl 1127 and Engl 3175, the descriptions for which seem to make some assumptions about the base knowledge of students in science fields. It isn't clear if ground material in sciences will be covered in the course. Aronson and Ericksen responded that the course focus is more on the literary components of the topic, which doesn't require a full understanding of the science; the courses focus on how science functions in literature, not on whether or not the science is accurately represented, for example. Berthiaume asked about offering/approving MUS 1063 during the pandemic. Aronson clarified that no travel is planned for this year, and this course is a general tour course that removes the need to have a new course approved for each new tour course. The course will require additional advertising to clarify location to students when it is offered, and the course will not be offered until pandemic conditions allow.

A related note: following guidance from the Office of the Registrar and bringing us in much closer accord with the four other UMN campuses, we are reducing the provisional approval options going forward. Provisional approval of courses starting next year--and reducing it as much as possible this year--will be restricted to visiting faculty or emergency approvals.

Motion from Humanities, seconded by Franco. Motion approved (12-0-0).

Science and Math request approval for three courses. Current Physics faculty have proposed Intro to Astronomy to replace a course taught by a faculty who is not being replaced. This does not have a lab, but a few nighttime viewings. Biol 4006 is a new elective course being taught by new faculty. The prerequisite is Chem 2301. Biol 4242 is another new elective course being taught by new faculty. Ericksen asked if it could be included in the Data Science minor.

Motion from Science and Mathematics, seconded by Barber. Motion approved (12-0-0).

An additional course from Engl will be coming that still needs additional division approval. Education may also have a course coming from a faculty on sabbatical.

The First Year Experience course (IS1101, 1102) was provisionally offered this academic year. The pilot will, however, be continued next year, building on what we learned this year. This year's version was developed in large part by two staff who have now left UMN Morris, and Kerri Barnstuble, whose role as Director of TRIO Student Support Services – Summit Scholars ties her directly to first year student experiences, will work with the three instructors this fall and others to rethink and revise the course for its next iteration. The plan is to bring a revised course to the Curriculum Committee in February for regular approval, although not yet as a general education requirement. It will remain, instead, in the pilot stage for the next two years. SSS students were required to take the fall course, but not the spring course, and without anyone being required to enroll, the spring course was canceled due to low enrollment. Burke asked if the low enrollment was due to anything specific. Ericksen said that there is a lot of room for improvement but no one specific cause so far identified for the low enrollment. We do have many good suggestions from the fall students and instructors. Kerri Barnstuble will discuss some of that at a February meeting.

#4 General Education

We currently have three options for general education, as voted on by Assembly last spring and refined this past summer by a working group. A quick review of those will help set the stage for this semester's next steps. Dean created catalog mock-ups for the two new program possibilities, with the intent of making comparisons among the three programs clearer (all three catalog layouts are in the shared committee Drive). In the discussion that followed, to refamiliarize the committee with the two new options, Dean gave an overview of each. Regarding the FabNoN proposal, Burke asked about the requirement of sciences from different disciplines, especially when calculus is perceived to need pre-calculus as a prerequisite. Calculus is not, it was noted, actually required for many sciences, but indeed more feedback will be needed--positive as well as negative. For FabNoN, if courses carry two GenEd designators, they need to be in different categories. IC courses are proposed to be restricted to 2-credits.

The larger goal this semester is to discuss and refine proposals and to begin better educating campus about them. General Education changes would ideally be for 2023-2025 catalog, and so would really need to be decided by the end of spring 2022.

Dean then reviewed the Themes catalog mockup. This proposal replaces WLA and IC and College 101 with 2 4-credit classes. Students would pick one of the themes, each with related co-curricular activities. Themes will have different requirements based on which is selected. Dean stressed that all proposals will definitely address how any changes affect transfer students (including CIS, AP).

Ericksen will provide a framework for providing feedback on these proposals (in committee shared Drive) at the next meeting, and we'll continue to discuss them and the process.

#5 Crookston Accounting Minor

UMN Crookston has agreed to count three Morris classes toward their accounting minor, which creates an easier pathway for students to earn a Crookston minor in accounting while they are pursuing their Morris BA. Students would earn 12 Morris credits and the remaining 17 credits are from Crookston online courses. It will be noted in the UMN Morris list of minors with an asterisk indicating that the minor is offered to Morris students through collaboration with Crookston and is granted by Crookston. U policy states that courses on any of the five campuses count toward a student's overall 120, and Morris students will access the Crookston accounting courses by enrolling in Multi-I. This arose in response to several years of students leaving UMN Morris to pursue an accounting degree elsewhere.

#6 Fall 2021 Instructional Modalities

Ericksen will be sharing information soon to the campus about fall teaching, including the fact that all four instructional modalities will be available in fall 2021. What's undetermined is how preferences will be addressed, but consultation with Planning and Consultative as well as with the Division Chairs and OTR will guide the process as much as we are allowed to handle this locally. It may be that the decision ultimately is made at the system level.