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Curriculum Committee Minutes

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10-21-2021

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UMN Morris Curriculum Committee

October 21, 2021, 11:40 a.m. Meeting #4

Zoom

Members Present: Peh Ng (Chair), Stacey Aronson, John Barber, Barbara Burke, Jennifer Deane, Stephanie Ferrian, Simón Franco, Kiel Harell, Rachel Johnson, Nic McPhee, Marcus Muller, Ben Narvaez, Michelle Page

Members Absent: Jade Allard, Rebecca Dean, Grace Hiltner

Others present: Jeri Squier, Robyn VanEps

In these minutes: Gen Ed

#1 Welcome and announcements

Discussing GenEd today.

#2 Minutes from October 7, 2021

Zoom poll to approve minutes from Meeting #3 - October 7, 2021. Motion made by Page, seconded by McPhee. Minutes approved (10-0-0).

#3 A Curriculum committee student on the Writing Board

A student from this committee is needed on the Writing Board. Barber volunteered to be on the committee.

#4 GenEd discussion

Ng asked committee members to share feedback from the campus conversation on October 12. A draft summary of the comments made was shared with the committee. At one point, 122 participants were on the zoom call.

Page shared that her takeaway from the conversation about capstones is that the concept of a singular capstone needs to be defined, either by the committee or the campus. A shared understanding of it will be needed before the campus can affirm or deny this. Narvaez thought it was a good start, but wasn't a good platform for conversation. Faculty did share thoughts, but conversations need to occur in smaller groups. Franco commented on the themes confusion, could we use "formally known as global village". We are redefining the themes already present with the Global Village.

Ng reviewed additions to the running GenEd document. Ng reviewed the reason for changing to small changes and reiterated that the models worked on last year are not going away. McPhee commented that his understanding of the actions from last spring is different and was surprised about the shift to smaller changes. He feels it was more confusion than a lack of support for the large "models" presented last year. Narvaez commented that he also was confused about how the shift was made to the four small changes now being discussed. Ng commented that the focus has been shifted to the smaller changes to be able to meet the strategic planning and vision - aspiration 1 & 2, priority 1.

Squier commented that there are not enough classrooms to offer both Morris 1101 and IC courses at the same time when we are back to all in-person.

Franco commented that the Curriculum Committee is the governing body and does have the authority to make changes and this decision about General Education requirements.

Ng reviewed how the current items being discussed are tied back to the two major revision options discussed by the Curriculum Committee last year.

McPhee shared that small changes aren't going to get us to fundamental changes. He feels there is support for larger changes. Ng commented that she is concerned about large changes during our leadership transition. McPhee commented that the interim situation does not need to impact the committee's work. The committee is charged with the task to address GenEds. Ng shared that the charge from the Steering Committee to make changes does have a deadline. The big changes can still occur in the future. The deadline is to meet the [Strategic Vision](#) approved by Campus Assembly. Narvaez responded that the current GenEds could be reframed as the short term action to meet the aspirational statement. Then that revised model could join the other two when large scale changes can be worked on.

Ng reviewed how revising the current GenEds fit into the changes being discussed. Experiential Learning is all about tagging what students are already doing. Combining IC courses and Morris 1101/1102 is achievable. Adding in WLA would be a larger change, but has generated concerns from faculty about teaching WLA. The capstone conversation has proven to bring out strong opinions.

Burke suggested leaving the capstone change for future changes. Should the committee vote on moving forward with the other three items? Franco proposes first looking at experiential learning because it is very doable. McPhee agrees that the capstone is bigger and could be delayed. He would like to put effort to A and B.

Narvaez commented that A is easy to add. Study Abroad does bring up an equitable issue. (Comment from campus conversation.)

Ferrian commented that Experiential Learning does have lots of opportunities. She shared that some students studying abroad actually have a lower cost of attendance than our on-campus students.

Burke motion to concentrate on Components A, B, and D (A. **Experiential Learning**, B. **New FYE (first year experiences) Courses: IC, 1101-1102, WLA**, D. **Mission-based themes**), Franco seconded. Motion passed (8-1-1).

Ng will create subcommittees to look at A/B and one on D. Email your preference to Ng.

Meeting adjourned at 12:42 p.m.

Excerpt from Strategic Visioning and Planning

1. Public liberal arts for the future—

Building the model 21st-century public liberal arts college

Aspiration 1: We aspire to honor our liberal arts tradition by preparing students to create and discover solutions to complex problems of the 21st century, through inquiry, community-engaged learning, and rigorous experiential projects across the curriculum, including integrated first-year and capstone experiences. A1

Aspiration 2: We aspire to strengthen our commitment to scholarship by supporting faculty, staff, and students in research and creative activities. A2

Priority 1: Build a simpler, more integrated set of general education requirements by designing requirements that are more easily understood and explained. P2