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Curriculum Committee Minutes

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12-2-2021

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Recommended Citation

Curriculum Committee, "Curriculum Minutes 12/02/2021" (2021). *Curriculum Committee Minutes*. 397. <https://digitalcommons.morris.umn.edu/curriculum/397>

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UMN Morris Curriculum Committee

December 2, 2021, 11:40 a.m. Meeting #6

Zoom

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

Members Absent: Jade Allard, Grace Hiltner, Stephanie Ferrian

Others present: Jeri Squier, Robyn VanEps

In these minutes: Gen Ed

#1 Welcome and announcements

This is the last meeting of the semester. Thanks to the committee for all the work so far.

Writing Enriched (WE) course updates and upcoming calls for proposals and next year's board members. Sixteen courses have been approved and more are coming. Ng hopes for a critical mass of WE courses for the incoming class. Another call for course proposals will go out at the beginning of next semester.

Reviewed committee members for the upcoming Curriculum Innovation Grant. Call for these proposals will go out in early spring semester. Ng asked for committee members, which should include a student. Franco and Deane will continue. Mora will be on the committee. Email Ng if you are willing.

#2 Minutes from November 11, 2021

Zoom poll to approve minutes from Meeting #5 - November 11, 2021. Motion made by Deane, seconded by McPhee. Minutes approved (11-0-0).

#3 Additional Meeting Times

Ng shared the additional dates chosen (four Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m.) for more meeting time outside of the community hour time designated by Steering Committee. No concerns were noted.

#4 Request for Directed Study General Education Designator

Descriptions of the General Education criteria and assessment were shared. Request approved (10-0-1). The Registrar Office will process this now that it is approved.

#5 GenEd discussion

Another campus wide discussion is scheduled for February 3, 2022.

FYE and experiential learning group. Johnson shared that another subcommittee was held before Thanksgiving. They are looking at short term and long term plans. They have multiple proposals for the First Year Experience. Emily Johnson, Kerri Barnstuble and Jessica Porwoll joined their meeting to add FYE context. Burke asked about having MCSA review and contribute. The group may solicit input along with the campus in the future. Mora is the MCSA secretary and will share information with them. Franco shared that there is a white paper written on the first year experience somewhere and believes Adrienne Conley has it. Franco will ask Dave Israels-Swenson to send it to Johnson and Page.

McPhee commented that much of the work is starting to seem like past versions of the first year experience that were taught by faculty. This could be problematic if much of it may be taught by staff in the future. Page shared that the proposals will need to be very clear about who the instructors are. She doesn't think it will be primarily staff. Narvaez shared a concern about students' experience. Continued conversation regarding faculty engagement in first year courses. Narvaez asked if there has been conversation about guidance to IC teachers to structure it more consistently. Page responded that they have discussed it and acknowledged that it has been lacking. It will be vital to provide that moving forward. Dean commented that the guidance meeting should be held in the spring so it could happen before instructors created their syllabus. Franco shared the staff perspective. Staff have been kept from the classroom, but then asked to teach FYE. He expressed the need to proceed cautiously. McPhee acknowledged what Franco shared and the politics surrounding it. Morris does not have an egalitarian environment, but the committee can't change that.

Aronson started the conversation about the themes sub committee. They have met once and gathered questions that need to be answered. They are also working on putting together a prototype of current courses and how they would fit. Aronson thinks the process of putting together a prototype will bring up if any of the course mappings are going to be an issue. They are leaving the Skills general education courses out at the present. McPhee and Dean did similar work previously, but it isn't quite the same. It was shared with the committee. Discussion continued regarding what the goal of the themes is and how to adapt current courses. Aronson again shared the anxiety that Humanities has about these changes. Dean commented that the current requirements are already not supporting many of the disciplines. McPhee shared his concern that Gen Ed requirements should not be based on creating feeder courses for disciplines. Faculty and disciplines are welcome to adapt courses to fit and gain a designator. Narvaez shared that ultimately, getting students exposed to all areas of Liberal Arts should be the goal.