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Curriculum Committee Minutes

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1-27-2022

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UMN Morris Curriculum Committee

January 27, 2022, 11:40 a.m. Meeting #7

Zoom

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

Members Absent: Jade Allard, Grace Hiltner, Ben Narvaez (on leave)

Others present: Jeri Squier, Robyn VanEps

In these minutes: Gen Ed

#1 Welcome and announcements

Welcome to the first meeting of spring semester. On February 10th, the committee will review any off-cycle course changes.

#2 Minutes from December 2, 2021

Zoom poll to approve minutes from Meeting #6 - December 2, 2021. Motion made by Franco, seconded by Deane. Minutes approved (9-0-1).

#3 Revision to Form A

Next year will be a catalog year. The proposed revised Form A is simpler and would be used next year. McPhee asked if there was a rationale for removing the level information. He feels there is good information about the structure of the major or minor. Squier clarified that the information is also in the program review. No objections to the revisions.

#4 Curriculum Innovation Grant

Ng thanked the small group for reviewing the applications received for Curriculum Innovation grants. She reminded the committee that innovation is key to this grant and use of the donor money. All proposals may not be funded, but all efforts are appreciated. Funding decisions will be coming soon and communicated to the applicants.

#5 Academic Program Review

The Google folder contains the academic program review documents. French is the first program to be reviewed.

#6 Gen Ed discussion

Ng thanked the subcommittee for their work. Another campus wide discussion will be held next week on February 3, 2022. She will send out an invitation and include the documents from the subcommittees.

Experiential learning (EL) proposal still has many questions. They propose that experiential learning could be fulfilled by a class or a co-curricular activity. The class option would be similar to the way the writing enriched courses work. The criteria needs to be well defined for what counts as experiential learning. A board of experts would be created to review courses to grant an EL designation and what experiences meet the criteria. It also would identify barriers and how to address them. For example,

study abroad or research may not be available to all students. Ng expressed concern about creating another board. She asked if the intention was to have one course with an EL designation. McPhee clarified that courses could be designated as an EL course upon request from the board, similar to WE courses. Ng wants to be sure that ownership of granting GenEd designations remains with the Curriculum Committee. Burke asked if a week experience counts or does it need to be a semester course. She also asked if student leadership would fulfill the EL requirement. Page indicated that scale and length requirements are yet to be determined. Franco shared that experiential learning is well defined at experientiallearninginstitute.com. He feels that specific leadership opportunities would be experiential learning, but it would not be just based on holding a leadership role. First Year Experience (FYE) needs structural support and that may take time to implement. Page shared several options for combining currently existing WLA, IC, and IS. She commented that there hasn't been systematic planning and that structure will be important for this to succeed. The group will flesh out more details when they have more guidance from Curriculum Committee and campus. Ng asked if the group talked about who is the instructor of record if combining IC and IS. Page responded that it could be the IC faculty with IS instructors joining the course. There may be additional feedback from the campus. Squier asked about scheduling and it was clarified that if courses are combined, it would be one course moving forward. The thought would be that all would be 4 credits.

Deane spoke about the Mission Themes subcommittee. She thanked the Registrar Office for their help. They reviewed the strategic visioning priorities to lead their proposal. They propose removing Global Village designators and replacing them with the four Morris Mission Themes. These four themes provide more coverage for courses to be mapped. Courses could have up to two theme tags, but it would only count for one of the themes. Two credit courses could only have one theme tag. Students would be asked to take four courses to meet all four themes. The group feels this is a simpler approach and easily explained. The group identified that there are not many sustainability courses right now. Dean asked about courses carrying two designators, but not counting. Deane clarified that courses could still count for another category of GenEd, just not another of the themes. Deane stated that the group hopes to make things much simpler for students and simpler for the folks in admissions to be able to explain how our expanding perspectives covered breadth across the campus and our Morris mission themes embed students into our campus commitments. Ng asked the group to add clarification about meeting two designators.

Ng will share pdfs of these proposals with the campus before the campus conversation.