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Curriculum Committee Minutes

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2-16-2022

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Recommended Citation

Curriculum Committee, "Curriculum minutes 02/16/2022" (2022). *Curriculum Committee Minutes*. 398. <https://digitalcommons.morris.umn.edu/curriculum/398>

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UMN Morris Curriculum Committee

February 16, 2022, 3:30 p.m. Meeting #9

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, Marcus Muller

Members Absent: Jade Allard, Ben Narvaez (on leave), Vanessa Mora, Michelle Page

Others present: Jeri Squier, Robyn VanEps

In these minutes: Gen Ed discussion

#1 Welcome and announcements

This is the first of several meetings outside of community hour. Steering has agreed that the committee can meet on Thursday, April 28 during community hour.

#2 Gen Ed discussion

All comments from the February 3, 2022 campus conversation, Google form (that was suggested at the campus conversation), and a statement from DEI are linked from the agenda.

There is resounding support for leaving WLA alone.

Current Global Village does not require all areas be met. The new Themes proposal does require all areas related to the UMN Morris Mission be met. Dean shared that the UMTC has “Race, Justice, and Power in the United States”. Dean commented that “Social Responsibility” is far from that. She doesn’t feel an ethics class fulfills the meaning of the transfer requirement of Human Diversity. Morris can define Human Diversity to extend beyond the United States. Deane expressed concern about social justice being a term that might not be the same in 5 or 10 years. Franco acknowledged the letter that the committee received from DEI. He talked about deciding on a term and then how important it is to describe what it encompasses, both for UMN Morris and the transfer requirements. Dean does not favor combining ethics and human diversity. Some ethics courses could also be addressing human diversity, but not all. Deane asked Dean if HDiv could be done in a different way to make more sense. Dean responded that the “Social Justice” framing broadens the conversation to a worldly scope. Barber also supports dropping ethics. McPhee commented that it is important to avoid any of the General Education requirements “belonging” to any discipline. Social Justice is a label that can include many people without it belonging to any discipline. Muller shared the UMTC naming is “Race, Power and Justice in the United States” and that the MN Transfer Requirements has a human diversity theme, but social justice would fall under ethical and civic responsibility theme. Burke commented that research methods courses include an ethical component, but typically not social justice.

Johnson commented that she is struggling with the FYE and EL and what next steps are. There seems to be support for combining IC and IS, while leaving WLA independent. Franco brought up paid experiences, as well as outside experiences, and how would they count. He suggested that criteria is set so that it can be assessed. He is opposed to a placeholder course. The experiences should be done outside of coursework. He does support giving the credit for paid experiences. Ng brought up how to handle something that would fit the criteria, but does have credit attached to it. Study Abroad is

a good example of this. Muller assured that milestones or other comments can be added to the transcript. Additionally, work is being done on a comprehensive student record. Aronson asked for clarification about the comprehensive student record. It will contain everything in addition to courses and would be an addendum. Aronson also asked about the monitoring of the criteria for EL. The subcommittee has suggested a board to review. Squier cautioned that the milestones are currently added manually. Ng would like to see databases connected to make this process easier. Ferrian commented that tracking and coordination with APAS will be important. She suggested a pre- and post- experience assessment. Franco shared that work was done in the past on a system that we no longer have access to. There is a lot of work yet to be done for the comprehensive student record. Dean brought up past first year experiences in the context of combining IS and IC. Franco asked to see some of the data from the current IS courses since they are so new. Johnson suggested getting instructors of both IS and IC together to discuss strengths and weaknesses of each type of course. McPhee agrees that would be a good idea, but he recalls that those past courses weren't necessarily the people that were the most passionate about it. He thinks that if it's offered as 4-credit, that would help. A long-term staffing plan is going to be necessary.

Ng shared a mock catalog writeup for the Morris Mission Themes and Expanding Perspectives Core. The focus is on explainability, and it is fine if specific academic programs are not part of the explanations. Under the themes, Ng removed Creative Problem Solving as a theme because it should be part of the overarching description of our general education. Students would be required to complete courses in each Morris Mission Theme as well as the Perspectives Core, with minimum additional required credits. McPhee raised the concern that the five Perspectives Core have a widely varied "bucket" of courses. There is an imbalance of courses that could fill them. Burke asked about Artistic Performance performance and Ng assured that it could be added back to skills requirements.

Meeting adjourned at 4:32pm.