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Curriculum Committee Minutes

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3-10-2022

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## **UMN Morris Curriculum Committee**

March 10, 2022, 11:40 a.m. Meeting #12

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, Ben Narvaez (on leave)

Others present: Jennifer Rothchild, Jeri Squier, Robyn VanEps

### **In these minutes: Sociology Academic Program Review, Gen Ed**

#### #1 Welcome and announcements

Ng shared that the Steering Committee has asked how many additional meetings the Curriculum Committee would need for next year (given that we always have to add more meeting times). Based on prior year's data, she has asked for 22 meeting times for the 2022-2023 academic year since it is both a catalog year and a year with continuation of Gen Ed discussions.

#### #2 Minutes from February 16, 2022 and February 24, 2022

Zoom poll to approve minutes from Meeting #9 - February 16, 2022. Motion made by Dean, seconded by McPhee. Minutes approved (10-0-1).

Zoom poll to approve minutes from Meeting #10 - February 24, 2022. Motion made by Franco, seconded by Burke. Minutes approved (10-0-1).

#### #3 Academic Program Review - Sociology

Welcome to Sociology. Ng reminded the committee of their role in Academic Program Review. Rothchild thanked Ng and Division Chairs for their support for the program. Special thanks for efforts to cover courses for next year. For the past two years, Sociology has only had one faculty. The program can't move forward until the staffing is more solid. The review involved in completing the evaluation revealed innovative ideas from other private liberal arts and COPLAC institutions. Rothchild spoke about the idea of cluster hires. A tenure-track hire in Sociology could benefit other disciplines and the whole campus. McPhee commented that the cluster hire suggestion seems to be a great strategy. Sociology is a keystone on campus. Rothchild would prioritize a sociologist with a quantitative focus, but also sees great value in a cultural sociologist. Dean commented that the hires are very important to sociology and the human services major. McPhee commented that the hire request should definitely make the impact to the campus and many majors very clear. Rothchild fears that without more faculty, the number of students in sociology will go down. She sees lots of double majors. Since writing the report, Rothchild reports that a tenure track hire request is in the works for a faculty with a criminal justice background and would contribute to Sociology, Psychology and Human Services.

Ng thanked the Sociology Faculty for sharing their program review.

#### #4 Course approval

Ng explained the course revisions that need to be completed for the Brunnenberg courses. Both courses are taught by Brunnenberg faculty and will be part of the program this fall. Contact hours for each course will adjust to match the credits. Motion from Social Science, seconded by Dean. Motion approved (11-0-0).

#### #5 Gen Ed discussion

Ng reviewed the changes made last meeting to the mock catalog document. Feedback from the campus conversations has been incorporated. Experiential learning is tabled for now. A lot of feedback on the Morris Mission Themes and the Liberal Arts (Perspectives) Core. The problem solving theme language was added to the description for the entire gen ed program. Everything still lines up with the MN transfer requirements. The four themes reflect the UMN Morris Mission. It was decided that a doubly tagged course will be able to satisfy both requirements when a student completes that course. McPhee recalled that in the past, when double dipping was allowed, many courses added tags to increase student participation. This double tagging is only allowed for categories in the Morris Mission Themes, or for a cross-over from a Liberal Arts Perspective Core topic to a Morris Mission Theme. Ng commented that 3000-level courses will then be allowed to have tags to give students more flexibility and choices in fulfilling their general education requirements. Ng also commented that allowing courses to be doubly-tagged may also help us increase the number of multidisciplinary courses, and thus supporting part of the [MPact 2025 Systemwide Strategic Plans](#). Gen Ed needs to be tied to the Student Learning Outcomes. Franco asked for confirmation that the Gen Ed revision process has not ended and suggested that be part of the message to campus. Dean spoke about making sure courses meet the outcomes that correlate with the tags and will share what those outcomes are. Dean, Johnson and Muller will help review descriptions to identify where edits are needed. Ng would like to see the Curriculum Committee implement these changes in the 2025 catalog.