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Curriculum Committee Minutes

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4-7-2022

### Curriculum minutes 04/07/2022

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## **UMN Morris Curriculum Committee**

April 7, 2022, 11:40 a.m. Meeting #15

Zoom

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

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

Others present: Sylke Boyd, Steve Morgan, Emily Bruce, Steve Gross, Roland Guyotte, Aaron Wenzel, Jeri Squier, Robyn VanEps

### **In these minutes: Physics Academic Program Review, History Academic Program Review**

#### #1 Welcome and announcements

Next week's off-community hour time is important because it is the last meeting time before General Education progress is presented to Campus Assembly.

#### #2 Minutes from March 24, 2022 and March 30, 2022

Zoom poll to approve minutes from Meeting #13 - March 24, 2022. Motion made by Dean, seconded by McPhee. Minutes approved (9-0-0).

Zoom poll to approve minutes from Meeting #14 - March 30, 2022. Motion made by Barber, seconded by Franco. Minutes approved (9-0-0).

#### #3 Gen Ed discussion

Ng heard from coordinator of IS 1101, Kerri Barnstable that Kerri is working on gathering information.

At the March 30th meeting, there was discussion about changing the name of General Education Requirements to Morris Core Curriculum. One of the reasons is that "Core Curriculum" is a term more commonly used in lieu of Gen Ed. The Curriculum Committee voted (10-0) in favor of renaming General Education to "Morris Core Curriculum." Also, there were discussions of making the credit load for IC courses as 2 credits to be consistent for all sections. Another reason is to ensure that new students take fewer than 16 credits in their first semester. Currently, about 85 to 90 percent of IC courses offered are 2 cr. McPhee commented that he would like to see all be 4 credits, but does support this move to be consistent. Aronson asked if this would start in Fall 2022. Ng responded that it would be a change with the other GenEd revisions, and not effective this fall. At the end of the discussion, the Curriculum Committee voted (10-0) in favor of streamlining all IC courses to 2 credits.

#### #4 Academic Program Review

##### Physics

Welcome to the Physics faculty. Sylke Boyd began the discussion. They currently have three faculty members and will have a retirement by the end of fall 2022. She shared a visual showing enrollment since 2015. It shows fluctuation, but hasn't declined as much as overall enrollment has. Most graduates go on to graduate school. The program has a good enrollment from Native American students. Almost all Physics majors participate in undergraduate research, including MAPs and UROP. Steve Morgan spoke about PSLOs in Physics. General Education course and Elective course

offerings have declined with the phased retirement of Gordon MacIntosh. The program is purposeful about maintaining elective and general education offerings. They are increasing the amount of programming and computation in the physics program. Alumni shared that an increase in programming and more career readiness would be important. The five year plan primarily cannot be achieved with only three faculty members. Boyd commented that they could offer an introductory course in fall semester, but it requires calculus. Specialized tracks could be considered, but that also requires additional faculty.

Dean commented that Physics has always done very well at assessments and she appreciated the data provided. Burke asked if any planning was done in the worst case scenario of being down to two faculty. Boyd responded that they would not be able to pursue the tracks. The connection with the Twin Cities would allow collaboration. They are able to add elective options from the Twin Cities offerings. McPhee commented that Computer Science also struggles and asked about the experience of creating collaboration with Twin Cities. Boyd responded that the proposal is mutually beneficial and is supported by a grant. McPhee asked about the alumni request for more teamwork. Students do work together in the laboratory. Outside of class, there are occasionally opportunities for team challenges. Deane shared that the introduction course was really well received by a student who was initially scared to take the course. She asked if they had talked about ways to address the workload of advising. Boyd and Jenn Goodnough have collaborated on ways to address career paths, but again without the faculty to support it, it won't be offered. Morgan shared there are resources available to help students with career readiness. McPhee commented that some other disciplines have ethics listed in their student outcomes and asked if Physics has talked about including ethics. Boyd responded that Physics has not discussed ethics specifically, but she believes students would have access as part of a liberal arts education.

### History

Welcome to the History faculty. Bruce started by sharing that history majors have increased over the past years. Course enrollment has stayed steady. History majors are active in campus governance, undergraduate research, and other work. History is often the area that Secondary Education majors pursue. Graduates have pursued careers in many areas including education, government and journalism. Faculty support six interdisciplinary programs as well. Bruce spoke that History is missing a faculty member in Asian History. They are pursuing creating a Public History minor. Funding has been received from the Institute for Advanced Studies to collaborate next year on collecting local oral histories. Bruce said they looked at their methods course as well and would be interested in a cross disciplinary course. They have many ideas for additional courses. Understanding the past is critical to meet the campus student learning outcomes.

Dean asked if Heritage Studies in the Twin Cities would connect with History and if the proposed minor would collaborate with anthropology, specifically in archeology. Bruce commented that History could benefit from including other disciplines in their elective options. Deane shared that the methods course does teach that history doesn't come just from documents. McPhee asked if they could identify why History has done so well at maintaining enrollment. Guyotte responded that work with alumni and the Minnesota Historical Society has kept interest up. History is core to liberal arts. Wenzel further responded that current events often prompt students to look to learn from history. Bruce added that the major is flexible and simple to navigate. It also can be completed even if not declared early on. Gross

shared that history has increased the number of 2000-level courses they offer. Many of their courses do not have prerequisites. IC courses are a good way to bring students into the major.