

University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well

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Curriculum Committee Minutes

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8-25-2022

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## **UMN Morris Curriculum Committee**

August 25, 2022, 11:40 a.m. Meeting #1

Zoom

Members Present: Peh Ng (Chair), Stacey Aronson, Kianna Big Crow, Merc Chasman, Brad Deane, Jennifer Deane, Wes Flinn, Simón Franco, Rachel Johnson, Marcus Muller, Michelle Page, Maya Shebala, Dylan Young

Members Absent: Stephanie Ferrian, Ben Narvaez

Others present: Jeri Squier, Robyn VanEps, Tricia Rohloff, Jessica Porwoll, Emily Johnson

### **In these minutes: General Education**

#### #1 Welcome, announcements, and responsibilities of Curriculum Committee

Welcome to the new academic year. There is a lot on our agenda for the year. Ng asked those present to introduce themselves. This is a catalog year and the Core Curriculum needs to be approved. Ng reviewed the charge to the committee as defined in the Campus Constitution.

#### #2 Minutes from April 28, 2022

Zoom poll to approve minutes from Meeting #17 - April 28, 2022. Motion made by Franco, seconded by Chasman. Minutes approved (8-0-2).

#### #3 Schedule of catalog changes

Reviewed the plan for all divisions to bring catalog changes.

#### #4 Curriculum Innovation and International Curriculum Development Grants

EDP funding is gone. Donor funding supports the Curriculum Innovation Grants and criteria for that grant follows the donor's request. Some money is available for curriculum development, no longer strictly tied to international. Call will go out in September. Ng would like to have subcommittee membership confirmed. Aronson, Chasman, Johnson, Deane volunteered. Deane asked that the subcommittee get guidance about how innovation is defined. Ng will provide that. Franco is also willing. Young will provide the student later this afternoon. Muller offered to serve, but as a non-voting member.

#### #5 Morris Core Curriculum

Ng started by sharing again that the strategic plan calls for the general education requirements to be reviewed. She shared the history of the process with extensive consultation and feedback to date. Many thanks to all that have been involved in the past. The Core Curriculum, when approved, will necessitate faculty to review and revise current course offerings. So even though this would be effective for the 2025-2027 catalog, it needs to be approved by Campus Assembly soon. Chasman asked about capstone experience. The capstone experience is part of their major requirements. This doesn't change the major requirements. For example, a student who has a double-major will need to meet the major requirements for both majors, including completing two senior seminars if required by the majors. The completion of a senior seminar equivalent course is to accommodate one particular academic program's requirement of a capstone block of 4000-level course requirements. Feedback has shown that an additional capstone experience outside of the major is **not** supported. Franco asked that when the Core Curriculum is presented to Campus Assembly that the list of consultations

be provided. He expressed concern about the “additional learning” part being incomplete. A lot of this work has been done in the past to evaluate co-curricular learning. Franco expressed that he and Dave Israel-Swenson are the repository of this knowledge and are willing to be consulted. Ng shared that there were concerns from campus feedback about the term “experiential learning,” even though by and large, everyone recognized that experiential learning could be part of our graduation requirements even if the experience is not curricular based. Similar to the capstone, it contributes more to graduation requirements than the Morris Core Curriculum. NSSE survey clearly shows that our students do participate in experiential learning. The text color will be removed prior to sharing with Campus Assembly. Ng also added that the detailed mechanism on implementing this “additional” learning will now have a deadline for completion once Campus Assembly supports this proposal, and we will have the next two years to implement them. Chasman asked about transfer students fitting into the core curriculum and making the spirit of the requirement clear to the Scholastic Committee. Ng and Muller will be sure that the message is clear for transfer students; and clarifications will be written in the provisions. There will be an accompanying statement about assessment of student learning.

Ng invited colleagues involved with IS 1101 to join the meeting. A summary and SRT data was provided. Students responded positively about the class. Emily Johnson started by sharing feedback from instructors last year. Connections were made and relationships developed amongst the students and the instructors. Tricia Rohloff shared that she has heard many positive feedback and has personally experienced positive interactions with the students as well. Jessica Porwoll shared that enrollment is slightly up this year. They did review fall-to-fall retention data based on today’s data and not based on the official 10 day count. She shared that there is an increase in first year retention, at this point, of 15% over the group that didn’t take IS 1101 last year. The course is currently not mandatory for first year students under the current requirements. 86% of the current first year students have chosen to enroll. Porwoll shared a few good stories from students about their choice to take the course. Squier shared that a few sections have significantly different enrollment when they are directed to students in specific programs. Porwoll mentioned that the course content is similar, but enhanced with specific resources. Franco commented that it is helpful to see how students value the course. He suggested that assessment and course outcomes be addressed further in future reports. Chasman asked if the W’s in the fall 2021 grade distribution from the report are one-time, or late drops. Muller and Porwoll can determine that.

IS 1101 is included in the Morris Core Curriculum. Deane asked about the message to faculty and if they can opt-in to teaching. Currently, all sections are taught by professional staff. Further discussion could adjust that approach. Franco asked if the Committee could do more to support IS 1101. Porwoll responded that all instructors do have a heavy workload and would like to have sustainability of staff time be addressed.

Ng asked for a motion and a second for committee approval of the Morris Core Curriculum. Motion made by B. Deane and seconded by Franco. Motion approved (10-0-0).