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Curriculum Committee Minutes

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2-9-2023

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UMN Morris Curriculum Committee

February 9, 2023, 11:40 a.m. Meeting #10

Zoom

Members Present: Peh Ng (Chair), Stacey Aronson, Merc Chasman, Brad Deane, Jennifer Deane, Wes Flinn, Simón Franco, Rachel Johnson, Allie Jutton, Kerry Michael, Marcus Muller, Ben Narvaez, Michelle Page

Members Absent: Kianna Big Crow, Stephanie Ferrian, Maya Shebala, Bonita Young

Others present: Ed Brands, Clement Loo, Margaret Kuchenreuther, Stephen Pirinelli-Deslauriers, Jeri Squier, Robyn VanEps

In these minutes:

#1 Welcome and announcements

Ng is delayed due to the Regents meeting and will join when she can.

#2 Minutes from February 2, 2023

Zoom poll to approve minutes from Meeting #9 - February 2, 2023. Motion made by Narvaez, seconded by Chasman. Narvaez made a few minor changes this morning and asked if anyone had questions. Minutes were approved (8-0-1).

#3 Program Reviews

Reviewed the role of the Curriculum Committee in the Academic Program Review Process.

Sustainability Leadership

Ed Brands and Clement Loo joined the meeting to present and answer questions. The minor is small. It was started three years ago. Narvaez commented that the numbers are positive for a young minor. Flinn, as assessment facilitator, agreed that there isn't much data yet. Page asked if there were questions they have for the Curriculum Committee. Loo responded that the minor tends to be a "grab basket" of what is available on campus that fits with the minor. The minor also utilizes the campus leadership program (MLEAD). Franco asked if the committee had any feedback on that program becoming a one credit, half semester course. Narvaez shared that LAAS does utilize a one credit course to build the cohort and is the basis for most of the assessment. Loo expressed interest in it. Page commented on MLEAD as part of the minor and the opportunities that it presents to expand assessment. She also commented that they are a great platform for exploring how experiential learning is incorporated in. Ng asked about the experiential learning applying toward the future general education requirements. Brands responded that nothing is exclusive to the minor so all courses and experiences would be open to all students. Loo asked if the experiential experience requirement would require all majors to have an experience. Ng answered that no, it will not be major based. Franco stated that MLEAD is an experiential learning and will count. He shared that a tool will be available for faculty and the Registrar Office to manage the documentation of it.

Biology

Margaret Kuchenreuther and Stephen Pirinelli-Deslauriers joined the meeting to present and answer questions. Flinn shared that Biology has a well crafted review. They get lots of data and have made changes based on data. B. Deane thanked Biology for their report. He asked about use of data and if

they have tracked student persistence in the major. Johnson shared that DEI data has informed how they apply for grants. They don't know how they compare to other institutions. Ng commented that we aren't far below when compared to COPLAC and other institutions. We have many initiatives on campus to address. J. Deane shared that Biology has a great involvement in McNair and it means that there is a lot of faculty time behind that. Biology is committed to communication in their 5 year plan. A new course has been approved with a writing enriched tag. New version of HHMI grant will be broadly applied to STEM students and focused on curriculum and addressing barriers for underserved students (PEERs - People Excluded from Science or STEM based on Ethnicity and Race). Focus will be on curriculum and peer-to-peer support. It will also fund a quantitative literacy or learning center that will function similar to the Writing Center where all students can access the services. They are just getting started on that project. Narvaez asked about students who don't come in with the major declared. Pirinelli-Deslauriers responded that the major is difficult to enter later and graduate in four years if they don't have chemistry courses. The summer General Chemistry course does help this. Courses do need to be taken in a certain order. Kuchenreuther reiterated that it is especially hard for students in a pre-professional track. The minor is easily attained. There are many required courses for the major, but it results in students with a broad understanding of biology with a "taste of everything".

Meeting adjourned.