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Curriculum minutes 11/29/2012

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UMM CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

2012-13 MEETING #9 Minutes

November 29, 2012, 1:00 p.m., MFR

Members Present: Bart Finzel (chair), Charlie Abraham, Joe Alia, Donna Chollett, Carol Cook, Pilar Eble, Pieranna Garavaso, Josh Godding, Aaron Goemann, Sara Haugen, Leslie Meek, Peh Ng, Gwen Rudney, Jeri Squier, Tisha Turk, and Zac Van Cleve

Members Absent: Clare Dingley

Visitors: Melissa Engleman, Nancy Helsper

In these minutes: EDP Review Subcommittee Recommendation; Course Revision (IS 2035); spring semester meeting schedule

Approval of Minutes – October 25, 2012

MOTION (Cook/Garavaso) to approve the October 25, 2012 minutes. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

EDP Review Subcommittee Recommendation

Finzel explained that the following Educational Development Program (EDP) funding priorities were provided in the guidelines given to the EDP Review Subcommittee, in no particular order: 1) courses that integrate sustainability across the liberal arts; 2) Intellectual Community (IC) courses; and 3) efforts to develop innovative “hybrid” courses. Well-developed proposals that address a significant need within the curriculum or that will benefit large numbers of students were also to be considered. The Subcommittee was chaired by Turk and included Alia and Goemann. Turk was asked to present the Subcommittee’s report.

Turk stated that there was a balanced group of proposals. This year 17 proposals were submitted, requesting \$48,300. The amount available for the program this year is \$24,000. Although they would have liked to have been able to fund a large number of proposals, the Subcommittee recommends full funding of eight proposals and partial funding of a ninth. Turk recused herself from the Subcommittee’s discussion of her own proposal.

Turk reported that the Subcommittee immediately came to an agreement on the top three proposals. The remaining consensus was not easily reached, with each member advocating for at least one that ultimately went unfunded. In following the priority list given to the Subcommittee, one is an IC course, one is a hybrid course, and two are sustainability courses. Also, one from each of three divisions (the Humanities, Science and Mathematics, and the Social Sciences) didn’t fit those categories but seemed to represent important curricular innovations that affect a significant number of students. All the top three recommended courses were strongly recommended by their division chairs. The top three, in alpha order are:

1. *Rebecca Dean, anthropology*. She is proposing a complete, ground-up redesign of Anth 2101. The course number and name remain the same, but everything else is rebuilt. The course will fulfill a GER, it has good pedagogy and plan for assessments, and it has elements of a hybrid and flipped class, and sustainability. Her proposal was recommended to be partially funded.
2. *Windy Roberts, Spanish*. She is proposing a new course, Span 1003. This is an accelerated beginning Spanish course. This course addresses a long-standing issue that was discussed at a previous Curriculum Committee, where the course was approved.
3. *Engin Sungur, statistics*. His course is an introduction to data science, an exciting IS course in a new field. It is a blended course, although it was not pitched that way in the proposal.

Turk briefly noted the following six recommendations for funding (in alpha order):

4. *Sarah Buchanan, French*. This is one piece of funding added together with a number of other sources, to travel to Africa and work on African Ecology, Internships and Pedagogical Enrichment. This is an exciting and unusual proposal that the Subcommittee is pleased to recommend.
5. *Becca Gercken, English*. This is a proposed course in world indigenous literature and film. It would be an upper-level course in English that would affect an unusually large number of students, not just English majors. It would affect students in secondary education and other areas as well. It was a good proposal.
6. *Michael Korth, physics*. This is an IC course in basic energy science. The course is interesting and fulfills a need for IC courses in the Science and Mathematics division.
7. *Nic McPhee, computer science*. This is also an IC course on (re)appropriation sampling, and remixing. It brings together many areas of study. It will be an amazing IC class.
8. *Marynel Ryan Van Zee, history*. This is a flipped, hybrid of the Intro to World History course. It fits the funding priorities, and has a strong, thoughtful plan for assessment. She has specific goals of how hybrid elements of the course will work.
9. *Tisha Turk, English*. Alia spoke to the recommendation of this course. This course, Fan Cultures and Fan Creativity, is an IC course that was high on the list. The idea of studying fan culture would appeal to a lot of first-year students and get them to think deeply and discuss. Goemann added that it will be attractive as an IC course. He could see new students latching onto it.

In the event that one or more recommended proposals are withdrawn, the subcommittee short-listed two proposals (listed in priority order):

1. *Kristin Lamberty, computer science*. This is a Gen Ed course that would affect a lot of students. It was disappointing to not recommend this course because of funding limits.
2. *Christopher T. Cole, biology, and Peter Dolan, computer science*. The Subcommittee thought that bioinformatics: an interdisciplinary biology & computer science course sounded interesting.

The remaining proposals that were not recommended were (in alpha order):

3. *Viktor Berberi, Italian*. Flipped model for beginning Italian.
4. *Christopher T. Cole, biology and Timna Wyckoff, biology*. Hybrid course: molecular biology online.
5. *Mark Collier, philosophy*. Honors course: “Hume and Rousseau”
6. *Seung-Ho Joo, political science*. Hybrid course: World Politics
7. *Elena Machkasova, computer science*. Integrating the Clojure programming language into an introductory computer science course.
8. *Ray Schultz, theatre arts*. Theatre appreciation course

Turk stated that the rationale for funding or not funding proposals was put on the proposals. Garavaso asked if the people who applied will receive the feedback. The comments on the ones not funded would be helpful. Finzel stated that they will receive a letter as well as the proposals with the rationale included. Ng stated that the Subcommittee did an awesome job. She asked why the Cole/Wyckoff proposal was not funded when it is clear they are trying to make an effort to create a hybrid in order to spend more time in class doing problem-solving. Turk replied that it was clear from the proposal, that, in contrast to others that were funded, which involved very significant reimagining of courses, this proposal was revamping three weeks of the course, which seems less in need of funding than the other similar proposals that were funded (e.g., those from Ryan Van Zee and Dean).

Finzel stated that he hopes that some proposals will go forward even without funding. There may be some additional funding available from other initiatives in other areas, and if he can find it, he will follow the recommendation of the committee and move down the list or at least to fully fund the partial recommendation. He added that one of the hardest things to do is to give money away, being fair and balanced, while pleasing everyone, and thanked the Subcommittee for its work.

Motion: (Cook/Garavaso) to approve the funding recommendation of the EDP Review Subcommittee.

The motion passed unanimously (14-0-0).

Interdisciplinary Studies Course Revision

IS 2035 – Aging in Greece: Comparative Cultural Practices and Social Policy

Finzel stated that the increase in credits (change from 2 to 4 credits) allows students to take a directed study in addition to a study abroad, resulting in a six-credit package that then makes them eligible for financial aid. Eble stated that trying to get to six credits when they may not need more than two to graduate, is ill-advised because financial aid is not free money. They will be compelled to pay more. Goemann asked if this is a separate course from the directed study. Finzel answered that it often is done where the study abroad is located, followed by the directed study.

MOTION (Turk/Ng) to approve the change of IS 2035 from 2 to 4 credits.

The motion passed unanimously (14-0-0).

Spring Semester Meeting Schedule

Finzel stated that this is the final meeting of fall semester. In spring semester, the committee will meet on Tuesday mornings at 9:00 AM in the Moccasin Flower Room. The first meeting of the semester will be Tuesday, January 22. The meeting schedule is posted on the Curriculum Committee website and Darla will send a reminder. We will meet monthly in the early part of the semester, and will meet more frequently the latter half of the semester.

Finzel thanked the Committee for its hard work during fall semester.

Submitted by Darla Peterson