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Curriculum minutes 10/02/2014

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UMM CURRICULUM COMMITTEE
2014-15 MEETING #4 Minutes
October 2, 2014, 10:50 a.m., MFR

Members Present: Bart Finzel (chair), Sarah Ashkar, Donna Chollett, Carol Cook, Stephen Crabtree, Pilar Eble, Janet Ericksen, Pieranna Garavaso, Peh Ng, Ricky Rojas, Gwen Rudney, and Emily Sunderman

Members Absent: Dan Demetriou, Sara Haugen, Maryanna Kroska, and Sonja Swanson

Visitors: Nancy Helsper, Kellie Meehlhause, and Jeri Squier

In these minutes: Division of the Social Sciences catalog course changes

Finzel announced that the course changes in the Division of the Humanities are scheduled to be presented on October 9 but may also roll over onto the October 16 meeting agenda. He asked divisions to be prepared to present clean-up of modest course changes as early as October 9 or 16.

Approval of Minutes – September 25, 2014

Ng asked that the following sentence be added on page 5 regarding Math 3401: “The prerequisite for Math 3401 should be changed to 1101 or higher.”

MOTION (Chollett/Garavaso) to approve the September 25, 2014 minutes as corrected. Minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Catalog Course Changes

Division of the Social Sciences Catalog Course Changes

Finzel asked division chair Janet Ericksen to present the course changes.

Anthropology (Anth)

Ericksen noted that most of the course changes in Anthropology are the result of staffing changes in the discipline. Small course description changes were made to Anth 1813 and 3502. Redundant Gen Eds were removed from Anth 3455 and 3603.

Anth 2101 – Physical Anthropology (revised course)

The title is changing to “Biological Anthropology” to bring it in line with the name that is customarily used across the nation. The credits are being increased from 4 credits to 5 credits, to bring it in line with other Sci-L courses on our campus that have 4 hours in the classroom plus a lab. This change will more accurately reflect both faculty and student workload. The description is being changed to better reflect the content of the course, which has changed to include genetics. Finzel asked what the total number of credits in the major will be. Ericksen replied that the total will be 37, below the 40 credit max.

Anth 2206 – Sex, Marriage, and Family (4 cr; HDIV) (new course)

Regular approval is being requested for this course that has provisional approval.

MOTION (Ng/Chollett) to approve the anthropology course changes.
The motion passed unanimously (11-0-0).

Sociology (Soc)

The changes in Sociology include the removal of Gen Eds and one new course that will increase the number of electives in rotation; it is provisionally approved and will be taught this spring.

Soc 3125 – Terrorism, Law, and the State (4 cr) (new course)

MOTION (Garavaso/Ng) to approve the sociology course changes.
The motion passed unanimously (11-0-0).

Economics (Econ)

There is one simple course change: Econ 4121 – International Trade Theory. A prerequisite of Mgmt 3123 has been added so it now reads “Prereq- 3201 or Mgmt 3123, or #”. This will enable Global Business emphasis students who have not taken Mgmt 3201 to enroll in the course. Finzel added that the course Mgmt 3123 was introduced in the last catalog and this change was missed at that time.

MOTION (Ng/Cook) to approve the economics course change.
The motion passed unanimously (11-0-0).

Management (Mgmt)

Gen Eds are removed from Mgmt 3134, 3141, 3142, 3151, 3152, and 3513. The rationale mentions the SS Gen Ed in the rationale for change. That is a typo that will be cleaned up. Finzel noted that removing HDIV from Mgmt 3152 and removing E/CR from Mgmt 3151 have a consequence for students. Ericksen replied that management faculty are confident that students already have those Gen Eds from other courses by the time they take Mgmt 3152 and 3151. Garavaso stated that it would be helpful to know what the courses lack that resulted in the request to remove the SS Gen Ed from Mgmt 3134, 3141, 3142, and 3513. Finzel stated that the two Business Law courses (Mgmt 3141 and 3142) do seem to meet the requirement of the SS Gen Ed.

Ericksen agreed to bring the management course revisions back to the discipline for more information.

History (Hist)

The changes in History consist of 9 course deactivations and one change in the frequency of offering. Garavaso asked if the number of deactivations is the result of having too many courses or are they being replaced? Finzel replied that the deactivations are largely the result of two tenure-line vacancies and he expects that new courses will be added in the future. Chollett asked if there is a common practice for deciding whether to deactivate a course that is no longer being taught. Finzel stated that there is inconsistency because disciplines think about whether it is likely the course will be offered before they come to a conclusion to deactivate it; and it is a subjective judgment. Squier added that there is currently no mechanism to reactivate a course without bring it back to this committee for approval.

Ng then asked if all courses that were provisionally approved last year will automatically be forwarded to the Curriculum Committee for regular approval this year. Squier stated that she leaves that up to the divisions to decide whether to bring them forward. Helsper stated that the understanding about provisional approval is that a course can be offered during one catalog cycle until they are either regularly approved or deactivated. Squier stated that she is working on the list of provisionally approved courses with divisions now and they will come forward as part of the cleanup.

MOTION (Ng/Rudney) to approve the History course changes.
The motion passed unanimously (11-0-0).

Political Science (Pol)

Ericksen stated that there are many changes in Political Science that reflect revision of the major. The discipline has decided to reduce the number of upper level offerings and make the major more flexible by offering more 3xxx-level courses. The number of 2xxx-level courses for non-majors has also been increased. Deactivations are tied to the same changes. A lot of 4-credit courses are being replaced by 2-credit courses, half-semester versions with slightly revised descriptions. Students who want a full 4 credits can take a paired course in another half-semester. Some 4xxx-level courses are being moved to the 3xxx-level, and 4xxx-level seminars in three different subfields of political science have been added. They are trying to move everything else out of the 4xxx-level so only the capstone seminars are at the 4xxx level. Squier asked whether a student who has taken the 3xxx-level course that is being deactivated and wants to take one of the new 2-credit courses that replace the 3xxx-level course can get credit for the 2-credit course. Should she add “course equivalent” to the new 2-credit courses? She will provide a list of those courses to the division chair and if the change is necessary she will add that restriction. Rudney asked if the new 2-credit courses will be taken by students majoring in political science. Ericksen stated that the courses can be taken in any order and will count as electives. Ng asked that the ten new 2-credit courses not all be offered in the first half of the semesters.

Garavaso stated that one of the new 2-credit courses, Pol 2411 – The United Nations: Simulated Negotiations is carrying an Ethical & Civil Responsibility (E/CR) Gen Ed, but nothing in the course description suggests that it would satisfy that Gen Ed. She suggested that it be brought back to the discipline for an explanation. Finzel asked if the course prerequisite carries the E/CR Gen Ed. Garavaso answered that there is no prerequisite for the course. The committee agreed to pull 2411 and send it back to the discipline.

Finzel stated that the discipline should be applauded for re-envisioning the program. The 4xxx-level courses in the discipline have been undersubscribed. Lowering them to 2xxx-level courses does cost the discipline to have small specialized classes, but they are now more accessible to the campus.

MOTION (Cook/Ng) to approve the political science course changes (omitting Pol 2411).
The motion passed unanimously (11-0-0).

Psychology (Psy)

Psychology has a lot of revisions, many of which are the result of staffing revisions, Gen Ed removals, or term offered changes. One change to note is that of Psy 3503 – Consumer Psychology. This course is cross-listed with Mgmt 3503, and the name is being changed to

Consumer Behavior. This name is used more commonly in business departments. It is being cross-listed because psychology majors won't take the course if it is listed as a management course, and vice versa.

Another course going through a lot of changes is Psy 4770 – Empirical Investigations in Psychology. This is a capstone course. This course will involve independent research as opposed to an advanced seminar. The changes to this old course are one of the results of clarifying the capstone by laying out what options are available at the senior level.

Finzel noted that the new course, Psy 4970 – Advanced Seminar in Psychology is a provisionally approved course being brought forward for regular approval. However, there isn't enough information in the course description for the committee to approve it. As it is described, it appears to be a blanket topics course, which is no longer allowed.

Rudney stated that the deactivation of Psy 1061 – Introduction to the Development of the Child and Adolescent, has a great impact on the Education program. When psychology made the decision not to offer Psy 1061 this academic year, the teacher education program had to create a new course to replace it. She stressed that psychology and education are working together and psychology is willing to explore what education needs. The name change to Psy 3401 to make it appear to be the same as Psy 1061 may help a few students but in general, it is not a workable solution due to the timing of the course, and that education has created a new education course that meets their needs. Finzel stated that this makes education rely less on other disciplines and is less interdisciplinary. Rudney agreed and stated that part of the program's conceptual framework is that it is grounded in liberal arts. The education courses are good, but it is also important that the students are taking history from historians and psychology from psychologists. The new education course will be taught by an education faculty member with background in educational psychology.

Finzel reminded Rudney that the Curriculum Committee controls the curriculum and Psy 1061 has not yet been approved to be deactivated, so if the removal of 1061 is causing a hardship in Education, it needs to be addressed. Rudney stated that although 1061 hasn't yet been dropped, it is not being taught and will not be taught.

Sunderman stated that she took Psy 1061 and it was phenomenal. She will be sad to see it go because it touched on a lot of things that Psy 3401 may not touch on. Ericksen stated that she talked to the psychology faculty and they thought that Psy 1061 and Psy 3401 were taught the same way.

Cook noted that she required Psy 3401 for the preprimary endorsement but many of her students were told this year that it was the same as Psy 1061 so they did not need to take Psy 3401. Ericksen answered that should cease with the deactivation of Psy 1061. Ericksen reiterated that faculty involved with Psy 1061 want to work with education for a solution and are willing to listen to what education has to say. Rudney agreed that collaboration is in place. She stated that if 1061 is not going to be taught it should not be out there as an option. If it is deactivated, it doesn't mean that it can never be brought back. Squier stated that it is misleading to students to keep it on the books if it isn't being offered. Eble added that if it would not be deactivated, and if there might be a possibility it could be offered, they would have to change the frequency offered. Rudney reiterated that education has out of necessity developed a replacement course and that at this point, they need to offer it and evaluate its success. If it appears that Psy 1061 worked better, the conversations between psychology and education may allow for a way to get Psy 1061 back. Deactivating it now would make for a less confusing catalog. Cook added that it would also make advising easier.

Finzel stated that if the course is deactivated, it is highly unlikely that it will be considered again. Rudney reminded him that psychology and education are working together. Finzel added that the course replacement was done without any deliberation of this body or Campus Assembly. Ng asked if the solution that education came up with by creating a replacement course is considered a short-term solution or if education would prefer that 1061 would come back.

MOTION (Ng/Garavaso) to approve the psychology course changes (omitting Psy 1061 and 4970 which have separate motions below).

The motion passed unanimously (11-0-0).

ABSENCE OF MOTION: The Proposal for regular approval of the provisionally approved course Psy 4970 was rejected due to lack of a motion.

MOTION (Ericksen/Rudney) to approve deactivation of Psy 1061.

The motion passed (8-2-1).

The summary result of the psychology course changes was approval of all proposed changes with the exception of Psy 4970.

Submitted by Darla Peterson