

*****Approved Sept. 22, 2008*****

Social Science Division Meeting Minutes

September 17, 2008

Faculty in Attendance: Pareena Lawrence (Chair), Leslie Meek, Rebecca Dean, Jeff Ratliff-Crain, Sheri Breen, Dennis Stewart, Solomon Gashaw, Farah Gilanshah, Donna Chollett, Heather Peters, Julie Pelletier, Paula O'Loughlin, Bert Ahern, Jennifer Deane, Patrick Shorb, Tom Johnson, Arne Kildegaard, Stephen Burks, Seung-Ho Joo, Octavian Vasilescu, Katherine Benson

Faculty excused: Marynel Ryan and Steve Gross

Faculty on leave: Rothchild, Finzel, Bina, Guyotte

Students in Attendance: Sheila Nezhad, Kellcee Baker, Matt Nelson, Jared Walhowe, Adam Olson

I. Announcements

Chair Pareena Lawrence called the meeting to order at 4:03pm. She thanked faculty for using electronic copies in curriculum proposal approval process.

Lawrence announced that the Social Science division had requested 5 tenure track positions in the following disciplines: History, Psychology, Management, Environmental Studies, and Political Science. There was a campus wide total of 17 position requests, of which a total of 7 were funded. Social Science received 3 of these 7 positions, Humanities 3 and Science 1. The following position requests were approved in the Social Sciences: Environmental Studies, Management, and Political Science. Psychology and History may be approved for 1 year temporary positions but approval for additional tenure track hires is unlikely. Search committees will be appointed in the next few weeks.

Lawrence reminded those present that another division meeting will be held on Monday, September 22, 2008 at 4pm. This meeting will address the curriculum proposals for the 3 interdisciplinary majors housed in the Division.

There was a question regarding the timeline for authorizing 1 year replacement positions. It was thought that approval would come in late October or November hopefully before class schedules are due.

II. Approval of the Meeting Minutes from August 21, 2008

The minutes were unanimously approved without changes.

III. Discussion of Curriculum Proposals

There was a change in the agenda. The order of discussion was changed to: Anthropology, Sociology, Political Science, History, Psychology, Economics and Management.

A. Discussion of Anthropology

Form A - The changes in courses (new additions and inactivation) made reflected the retirement of long time faculty member Dennis Templeman and the hiring of Rebecca Dean. The only change in major requirements was the elimination of senior seminar. An error was found in Form A. The number of courses listed with a general education designator should be listed as 2 present and 1 proposed.

Major - The required credits are the same. Although the senior seminar was deleted, Anth 2103 Archaeology was added to the list of required courses. Some of the course titles were changed. It was noted that the accumulative GPA for Anthropology majors was required to be at least 2.33, while every other discipline required 2.0. No one knew the rationale for this inconsistency. It was voted to make an amendment to the document lowering the required GPA to 2.0 for consistency across campus. This motion passed. It was also clarified that the addition of “No more than 8 credits can be from Soc courses” was to avoid and clarify “double dipping” in the 2 disciplines.

Minor - The GPA requirement will be changed to read 2.0 instead of 2.33.

Multiple Course Revisions - Traditionally it has been the pattern in the Division and at UMM to end a student’s experience with a capstone course. The question was posed: with the elimination of the senior seminar, could Anthropological Theory provide this capstone experience? The reason for the elimination of a capstone class was due to limited staffing. Currently, there are only 3 Anthropologists on staff: 2 cultural and only 1 physical. If each student were required to take a capstone, the faculty would not be able to meet every student’s research needs and offer a sufficient number of elective courses. It was noted that other universities do not require a capstone course in Anthropology. It was hoped that students would be adequately trained in the two theory and methods courses. The student representative Jared Walhowe added that this would be a big change for the students. All of the other Social Science disciplines do have a capstone course. It was thought that a directed study could be a sufficient alternative; however this would put a large strain on the discipline and is not the way to go forward. It was suggested that the issue of capstone courses in a major be brought to the curriculum committee. The curriculum committee needs to decide on the need for and the goals of a capstone course and how smaller disciplines could meet these goals. UMM’s strategic positioning document strongly encourages all disciplines to have a capstone experience course. It was proposed that the rationale on the Multiple Course Revision document be revised to add that the theory and methods courses in Anthropology provide an alternative to the senior capstone experience. This modification was approved unanimously.

New Course Proposals - All new courses were from new hire Rebecca Dean. The new classes are ANTH 2455, ANTH 2103, ANTH 3206, and ANTH 3603

The curriculum proposal for Anthropology was accepted with all changes.

B. Discussion of Sociology

Form A - A few courses were inactivated.

Major - There was a question regarding the line "Take no more than 4 credits(s) from the following:" Due to the fact that the major already requires a 4 credit Soc 1xxx course, the phrase "in addition" possibly should be added. There was the proposal to delete Soc 1xxx from the list as there is only one sociology course at UMM at the 1xxx level. There was a question raised that if that course was struck, how would the discipline handle the situation of a transfer student who has taken a different 1xxx Soc course at another institution, would that course apply to the 4 credit limit. It was determined that in such a situation the discipline would handle the situation on a case by case basis and give credit for such a course if it was found to be appropriate. The Soc 1xxx was to be deleted from the list of elective courses.

Minor - No discussion on Minor.

Multiple Course Revisions - There were a few course inactivations and name changes.

The Sociology Curriculum proposal was approved with changes.

C. Discussion of Political Science

Paula O'Loughlin addressed the meeting about the Political Science discipline changes. Many courses had to be inactivated due to the loss of Greg Thorson and the Comparative Politics hire. There were also courses in the catalog that were taught by Jooinn Lee, who retired in 2007. Some of the major changes in the discipline include the combining of the senior seminars. In addition POL 2001 was added as a new required course and a prerequisite for the Senior Seminars. The discipline also made the distinction between 3xxx classes and 4xxx classes based on expectations of students.

Form A - The number of 3xxx and 4xxx courses was confirmed to be 34 current and 26 proposed. The net was changed to read 8. The total credits required for the major increased by 2 credits. This is due to the addition of a 4 credit methods course and the elimination of 2 senior seminar credits. The new senior seminar program will have students expand on a paper they've already written in a 4xxx course.

Major - The objectives were rewritten. Comparative politics was eliminated. The previous sub-fields are gone, in order to eliminate the situation of a student taking all of their courses with one faculty member. It was also added that students are strongly encouraged to take complementary courses. Some theory course names need correction: POL 3351, POL 3352, POL 4301, and Pol 4452.

Minor - The objectives were rewritten. Comparative politics was eliminated. The following theory courses need name corrections: POL 1101, POL 3351, POL 3352, POL 4301, and POL 4452.

Multiple Course Revision - Course Revision number 29 needs to be deleted. It is a duplication of a previous course revision.

The curriculum proposal for Political Science was approved with the edits.

D. Discussion of History

Form A - There were no significant curriculum changes. A few courses were inactivated and there was the addition of a 2xxx course. These changes reflect the current faculty interest. There was a typo in the "Please summarize the intent of proposed changes" box. The word "come" should be "some."

Major - The requirements were rewritten and some courses were added.

Minor - An issue was raised regarding the acceptance of grades below C-. The statement of this policy is not consistent with other disciplines. Chair Lawrence said that she would look into this to find the standard wording and policy.

The curriculum proposal for History was approved with edits.

E. Discussion of Psychology

Form A - It was brought to the attention of all that the Discipline/Division line on Form A needs to include both the Discipline and Division name.

Major - There were a few classes inactivated and added.

Minor - There was more discussion regarding the wording of the minor requirements. The statement "No grades below C-" may be confusing to students. Chair Pareena Lawrence is going to seek a standard policy and language by the next division meeting.

Multiple Course Revision - There was minor revision to existing courses and some prerequisites added.

The curriculum proposal for Psychology was approved.

H. Discussion of Economics

Form A - Minor - No discussion on Form A.

Major - There were 2 more new course proposals not listed on the original agenda. These 2 courses need to be added to the Major and Minor course lists. There was a question raised about the 2 credit course module as opposed to 4 credits that is standard across disciplines. Both Economics and Management offer 4 credit courses and 2 credit

courses, as this allows for scheduling flexibility and greater variety of offerings. Student Representative Sheila Nezhad felt that this was a good idea as it allows students to sample more courses and students can take the second half of the course only if they are interested in the subject matter.

For the course proposal of ECON 3014, the course equivalency should list IS 3206H.

The curriculum proposal for Economics was approved with edits.

I. Discussion of Management

Form A – No discussion on Form A.

Steve Burks reported on the curriculum changes. He noted 2 main modifications.

- 1) An increase in the management core by requiring more Management, Economics and Computer Science courses.
- 2) Requirements were cut back in the three emphases: Financial Management, Global Business, and Organizations and Human Resources.

It was also added that a Computer Science course was added, providing analytical content to the core. The total of required credits had dropped by 2 as Accounting II will drop from a 4 credit course to 2 credits only.

Major - Principles of Accounting went from 4 credits to 2 credits. The list of elective courses needs to include Steve Burks' 2 new Economics courses. Under the Global Business Emphasis, ANTH 3601 and ANTH 3602 should be added to the course list (the SOC section of these courses was listed). Under the Organizations and Human Resources Emphasis, Mgmt 3151 – Human Resources Management I was changed from a required course to an elective, and Mgmt 3152 - Human Resources Management II is being added as an elective. Organizational Behavior, Mgmt 3701 replaces Mgmt 3151 as the required class.

Minor - New courses were added to the elective option and a course was inactivated.

The curriculum proposal for Management was approved with edits.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:17 pm.