School of Liberal Arts Curriculum Committee

Minutes of November 7, 2018 Meeting

Miguel 204

The meeting convened at 10:04 a.m.

Members present: Keith Brower (ex officio), Pamela Chasek, Jawanza Clark, Michael Grabowski,

Kelly Marin (Chair), Rocco Marinaccio, Evelyn Scaramella, Nefertiti Takla

1. Approval of Agenda: The agenda for the meeting was approved unanimously.
2. Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the October 10, 2018 meeting were approved unanimously with corrections.
3. Department of Communication: The Department Communication submitted a proposal for a new Integrated Marketing Communication concentration. The changes include a change to the catalog copy describing the concentration, the addition of a new course COMM 214: Introduction to Integrated Marketing Communication, and changes to existing course prerequisites to accommodate the new concentration. Arshia Anwer, Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication, attended discussion to provide information about the proposal. She explained that some students are attempting dual courses in both the Advertising and Public Relations concentration in order to create their own version of IMC. This new concentration would solve that problem and allow students to take more courses in other departments. The committee asked how this concentration is significantly different from the minor in Marketing in the School of Business. Anwer explained that students in the concentration would also take the core courses in Communication, as well as the School of Liberal Arts core courses, as well as at least a minor in another subject in SOLA. Moreover, the concentration is steeped in an interdisciplinary liberal arts perspective. The committee agreed that the syllabus for the proposed course definitely has a liberal arts focus. Three votes were taken to approve the new concentration, the new course, and the catalog changes. As a member of the Department of Communication, Michael Grabowski recused himself from the votes. In each vote, the measure passed with 5 approve and 1 abstain. The committee recommended that the Department of Communication reach out to the School of Business before the proposal is brought before the College Curriculum Committee.
4. Department of Philosophy: In order to conform the level of course material to the course number level, the Department of Philosophy submitted a proposal to renumber 6 existing courses at the 200 and 300 levels. The department would like to have introductory courses numbered at the 200 level, and more advanced courses numbered at the 300 level. Pamela Chasek brought up the fact that, in the cases of PHIL 371 and 374, those courses were cross-listed with the Department of Political Science, PHIL 301 with Religious Studies, and that renumbering courses may have an adverse effect on cross-listings. A discussion was held about the meaning of the level of course numbers, and the lack of consistency across departments in the school. It was noted that the design of curriculum forms does not provide information about issues that may arise from cross-listing courses. Kelly Marin noted the need to change bylaws and forms to conform with current practices. It was recommended that the Department of Philosophy reach out to the other departments who will be affected by these numbering changes and seek their consent.

1. Department of Sociology: The Department of Sociology submitted a proposal to rename and revise two courses and create two new courses. Questions were brought up regarding whether the subject of some courses were better housed in other departments or should be cross listed with other departments. The committee acknowledged that the interdisciplinary movement within the liberal arts sometimes makes these determinations regarding departmental boundaries difficult. It was acknowledged that current curriculum forms do not address this issue. It was recommended that the Department of Sociology resubmit more detailed syllabi for the proposed courses and reach out to other departments which may teach similar material.
2. New Business: Kelly Marin brought up the fact that existing curriculum forms do not ask about how proposed course changes would affect cross-listing or other cross-disciplinary issues. Keith Brower noted that other institutions address these concerns in their forms. It was noted that the committee should examine and propose updates to existing curriculum forms to address these issues. This will be placed on the agenda of a future meeting.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, December 5, 2018 at 10-11am in Miguel 204.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Grabowski