School of Liberal Arts Curriculum Committee Meeting

April 17, 2019

**Minutes**

In attendance: Drs. Jawanza Clark, Michael Grabowski, Kelly Marin, Elizabeth Nelson, Evelyn Scaramella, Nefertiti Takla, and Dean Keith Brower.

Notetaker: Dr. Evelyn Scaramella

1. Agenda approved.
2. Minutes from March 6, 2019 meeting approved.
3. PHIL proposals.
   1. PHIL change to distribution requirements. The committee unanimously approved the distribution revision.
   2. PHIL new course proposal - PHIL 3XX: Philosophy and Literature.
      1. In the previous meeting, the committee decided to table this proposal. Some committee members raised questions about whether this interdisciplinary course would be cross listed with English, and whether the Philosophy Department should discuss this proposal with the English Department first. Dr. Marin spoke to Drs. Marinaccio, O’Connell, and Bollert prior to the meeting.
      2. We learned that Dr. Bollert emailed Dr. Myers about cross-listing. The English Department was not interested in cross-listing the course, but the committee agreed that due to the interdisciplinary nature of the course, Dr. Bollert did not need the English Department’s approval for cross-listing in order for it to be approved. “Philosophy and Literature” was approved unanimously.
4. ENG proposals. Dr. Margaret Toth and Dr. Deidre O’Leary Cunningham were present at the meeting to present these proposals.
   1. ENG 256: Types of Film Experience -  Minor addition to course catalog. Dr. Toth explained that allowing students the opportunity to take this course up to 2x would diversify offerings for the Film Studies minor. The committee unanimously approved this addition to the course catalog.
   2. Curriculum changes – revision of distributions and requirements for the ENG Major. Drs. Toth and O’Leary explained that the Department aimed to move from a survey model to a distribution model after an external evaluator recommended certain curriculum revisions. The department created a new distribution model to diversify the course offerings, make the topics of current courses more current, add fresh new courses to the major (such as courses being taught that would also be included in the DaSH minor), and change existing titles of certain courses to reflect the updated changes to curricular development. Certain logistics about course numbering still need to be figured out with Dianna Cruz. The committee discussed certain grouping changes to the proposed division of offerings, particularly that African American Literature be offered in 20th-21st century offerings and not just as a part of the Cultural Experiences grouping. The committee unanimously approved the curriculum changes.
   3. 13 course title changes. Syllabi were not submitted because the department believes that the titles are cosmetic changes that better capture what is being taught. The committee unanimously approved these title changes.
5. New major proposal - Sound Studies. Dr. Mark Pottinger was present at the meeting to discuss the new major proposal.
   1. Dr. Pottinger explained that combined with a larger liberal arts curriculum, the Sound Studies Major redefines traditional music study by integrating it with the science of sound. He discussed the reality of our college, which unlike other schools that we compete with, we do not have a Music major. However, students have continuously pursued the Music minor. The new major in Sound Studies would train students for music listening (unlike musicology or performance studies) by looking at how sound defines our environment, space, politics, and religion. He explained that the Music minor could use courses from Sound Studies program. The new major would draw heavily on adjuncts that are already teaching at the College in their specialty with the appropriate qualifications, and lines for new faculty would open after students begin to declare the major. The major has the full support of the Provost. The committee unanimously approved the Sound Studies major.
   2. New courses. The committee unanimously approved the new courses proposed below for the Sound Studies Major.
      1. Digital Audio and Acoustics
         1. MUSC 393: Audio Mixing and Music Production
         2. MUSC 395: Acoustics and Sound Control
      2. Guitar courses
         1. MUSC 259: Guitar Skills & Techniques II
         2. MUSC 309: Guitar Skills & Techniques III
      3. Piano courses
         1. MUSC 258: Piano Skills & Techniques II
         2. MUSC 308: Piano Skills & Techniques III
      4. Music History Courses
         1. MUC 290: Early Music History: Antiquity to 1800
         2. MUSC 380: History of Sound Recording and Audio Technology
      5. Additional courses
         1. MUSC 320: Advanced Music Theory
         2. MUSC 405: Senior Seminar: Contemporary Sound Design
6. Because we ran out of time, and in lieu of a fourth meeting, the committee agreed to discuss the remaining two proposals by email.
7. Meeting adjourned at 2 p.m. Next meeting will be scheduled for September 2019.
8. The committee discussed by email that for the 2019-2020 academic year we should have some timeline parameters for submitting departments, as it was challenging to review a large number of proposals at our third and final meeting of the year. One possible solution is that all major proposals must be submitted by the 2nd meeting to allow for ample review.
9. POSC new course proposal. POSC 270: Interpreting Politics: An Introduction to Political Ideas. By email, the committee unanimously approved the Political Science new course proposal.
10. Sociology new course proposal, SOC 350: Advanced Topics in GIS. By email, the committee unanimously approved SOC 350.