

Curriculum Committee Minutes
November 2nd, 2018

Attendees: Courtney Thatcher, Peggy Burge, Doug Sackman, Bill Barry, Nate Jacobi, Julia Looper, Alva Butcher, Leslie Saucedo, Maria Sampen, Jennifer Pitonyak, Gary McCall, Kathleen Campbell, Geoff Proehl, Regina Duthely

Meeting called to order at 12:05

M/S/P Approval of minutes of the October 19th meeting

Announcements:

Upcoming Register Lecture by esteemed CC member Doug Sackman on Nov 8th.
CC recently became aware that the Curriculum Review of Religious Studies Department is two years overdue and may be added to our list this spring.

Course Approval: AFAM310 African Diaspora Literature, Culture and International Experience (new, Humanistic Approach, KNOW) * will need to relay that the syllabus needs address KNOW

SIMS (Special Interdisciplinary Major) Discussion

a. Digital Media and Communication – Noah Thomas. Assigned to Working Group #3. Alva Butcher, Maria Sampen, and Gary McCall were present to summarize and bring forth for approval.

The group members spoke to the strength of the proposal and strong communication with Noah. Two items of concern were brought forth:

- 1) One of the three advisors (Sue Owen) would need to be replaced in the 2nd year. Derek Buescher has agreed to be advisor, and a letter is forthcoming.
- 2) The proposal includes substantial classwork abroad in Budapest. The student proposed a barebones contingency plan should he not be able to study abroad. The working group would like to request that the CC be sent an amended SIM proposal for review if the contingency plan does need to be implemented.

M/S/P (1 opposed) to approve the SIM contingent on receiving the letter from Buescher and with the stipulation to reassess the SIM if the student cannot take the study abroad courses.

b. Gender and Queer Studies (as an Emergent Discipline) – Bronte Segura, Olive Mullen. Assigned to Working Group #1. Julia Looper, Geoff Proehl, and Nate Jacobi were present to summarize and bring forth for approval.

The proposals were described as well-thought out and organized. It was noted that we have a GQS Program, but no major. The SIM proposals were developed using a mock-up of a major that the faculty in the program have put together, with comparisons to majors at Whitman and Willamette and with a capstone course already on the books. It

was suggested that the major has been held up by a limited number of faculty to support it. The SIMs are an opportunity for a “test run.”

Kathleen Campbell inquired if separate proposals have to be unique? Proposal guidelines simply note that the proposals must not be met by existing programs.

The inclusion of “as an Emergent Discipline” seemed a perplexing addition to the name of a major. Leslie Saucedo indicated she would reach out to the students/sponsoring faculty and suggest the major simply be “Gender and Queer Studies.”

M/S/P (1 opposed) to approve

During the discussions of both SIMs, general questions and concerns about SIMs and the process of reviewing and approving them came up:

- Curiosity of whether it is likely that there will be an increase in SIMs given the nature of the Strategic Plan. How will the two avenues intersect? Three SIMs in one semester is unusual. *The Trail* included an article highlighting the “GQS SIM major” (even before we approved it).
- Concern about delegating SIMs to Working Groups rather than the whole committee. Is that rigorous enough? Members of the Working Groups that reviewed the SIMs indicated that the guidelines were very clear. Saucedo suggested that the whole Curriculum Committee review SIM guidelines at the next meeting.
- A couple faculty members noted that some of our strongest students pursue SIMs and support this as a great opportunity for students to move the University forward.
- If many more SIMs are proposed, it may change the nature of majors.

The meeting ended with animated discussion of why nearly half the committee was sent to the wrong room via their Outlook calendar and a promise from Working Groups #1 and #4 to report on the exciting progress they’ve made at the next meeting (November 9th).

Meeting adjourned at 12:51.

Minutes recorded by Leslie Saucedo