

Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes, November 16th, 2018

Attendees: Peggy Burge, Regina Duthely, Julie Christoph, Julia Looper, Holly Roberts, Nate Jacobi, Jennifer Pitonyak, Kathleen Campbell, Finn Secrist, Gary McCall, Leslie Saucedo, Doug Sackman, Geoff Proehl, Bill Barry, Courtney Thatcher

Minutes for Nov 9th, 2018 meeting

- Corrections: Peggy to be added to attendee list, motion/second/approved (1 abstention)

Announcements

- Kathleen Campbell provided background on SIMS - 21 SIMS total, 7 turned into a major (first one in 1998)
- Leslie Saucedo brought attention to the four new items distributed to the working groups: Music composition major; PacRim classes; GSD minor; German studies major. New reviews and additional information have been added into working group folders, as well.

Updated documents for SIM Guidelines

- Leslie Saucedo added request about mentioning graduate school, and instead of moving all bullet points from the student application to the guideline file, created a hyperlink and replaced the reference to a few of the requirements with "all"
- Kathleen Campbell asked for clarification on the grade/GPA requirement for graduation: minimum C in each course or 2.0 overall (Note: university requirement is 2.0 overall for a major). After some discussion, the following was suggested as a replacement: "C or higher in each course applied to the SIM."
- Kathleen Campbell also asked if SIM can apply to the school of music (SIM grants a BA/BS, not Bachelor of Music)
- Correction suggested: "title of degree" should be "title of the major" on the application

Report on Collins Library's work to support the Legacies Project (Peggy Burge)

- Some of the places the library can and is supporting the Legacies Project: History of women studies and GQS; Honors 401; CIC grant for an oral history project (Andrew Gomez, LaToya Brackett, Nancy Bristow); in general, there is potential for looking at the history of programs on campus.
- Peggy Burge stressed: If looking at a Legacy Project in your department, please talk to a librarian as there are a lot of resources available.
- Leslie Saucedo suggested adding a general prompt for departments to consider thinking about the Legacy Project to the all responses to curricular reviews submitted this academic year. Possibly, becoming a question for departments to respond to in future curricular reviews.

Report on Alternative Grading Wed @4 session (Julia Looper)

- Wednesday @4 session on October 31st was about alternative grading. Two main types were discussed: Labor contracts (mostly being used in SSI) and specifications grading (usually higher level courses). Discussions were not just limited to entry level courses, they were across all levels. These methods don't require demonstrating knowledge of material on a final. The faculty using it are generally happy with it, it penalizes less prepared students less, and prepared students still have to put in effort.
 - Labor contracts – assignments and time spent, grade based on completing tasks and/or the time it takes, tracked in different ways (logs, reflections), determine rubrics in class with the students, not graded, just feedback
 - Specifics grading – still pass/fail but set expectations to pass (meet all criteria in rubric to pass)
 - Cons: students can choose to put more effort into a graded assignment, students make choices about what assignments to spend time on or not
- General opinion: this committee does not want to get into policing this
- Leslie Saucedo notes: we don't know the rubrics in most classes but the information is useful when looking at syllabi during curriculum reviews.
- Doug Sackman mentioned that it breaks the relationship between the feedback and the grade.
- Geoff Proehl asked if the grade distributions are significantly different from a class graded more traditionally. Julie Christoph mentioned Asao Inoue's research doesn't show much difference. Geoff Proehl also mentioned that it helps students better understand their relationship with time.
- Other questions and concerns were brought up about when to use it and when not. General discussion ensued.

Updates from Working Groups

- Bill Barry asked how groups should report findings/recommendations/etc. Leslie Saucedo requested a written document.

Meeting called to allow working groups to meet.

Submitted by Courtney Thatcher