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Tuesday, September 16, 2010

9:00 am BA 524

Present: Brodersen, Lyn; Butler, Corey; Gehle, Vaughn; Nelson, Linda; Sanchez-Aizcorbe, Alejandro; Thomas, Will

Absent: Brandt, Maria

**Approval of Minutes**

* Corey Butler moved to approve the minutes from the September 16 meeting. Lyn Brodersen seconded. Motion carried.

**Sophomores, Transfers, and the FYS**

* If a student transfers in with thirty completed credits, the student does not need to take FYS. Or, if the student has taken a first-year seminar course of some kind and a critical thinking course, the student will be exempt. Other students who fit neither category could petition to take a different critical thinking course.
* The Committee discussed a FYS proposal from Jeff Kolnick. The Committee asked for a syllabus to complete the proposal process.

**Contemporary Issues Seminar**

* Corey sent out a draft for the Contemporary Issues Seminar, based on the feedback he received from recent faculty meetings. Lori Baker shared that she thought there should be come component of writing involved in the Seminar. Corey indicated that faculty really want flexibility in the course, so that it can be tailored to faculty strengths. We do need to include an assessment component. The course can be tightened up when we figure out what works best in terms of the Seminar. Corey Butler moved and Vaughn Gehle seconded to forward the Proposal to Curriculum Committee. Motion carried.
* Lori asked if the Seminar could be tied to the Undergraduate Research Conference somehow, or to Maria Brandt’s idea for a First-Year Seminar Jamboree. We were not sure about how to implement these ideas immediately. We also need to make sure that assessments are imbedded in the course before we begin to offer sections.
* Lyn Brodersen will talk with Pat Carmody about how many sections of Contemporary Issues Seminar we may need for Spring Term or, possibly, next Fall.
* The question emerged about how to split load in team-taught courses. Lyn Brodersen will talk further with Deb Mitlyng about how this can be achieved.

**Issues to be addressed in the new LAC**

* An issue still exists with the rule that students may only take two courses from one prefix, particularly with the core courses in the LAC and the two IDST courses. On the LAC Grid, one course must be chosen from the approved list in History, Arts and Humanities, etc., but this does not synch with the MnTC categories. Students may need to take an additional course from the MnTC list. Corey will work toward preparing a document to address these fixes to present to Faculty Assembly. Vaughn added that the Science problem mentioned in last week’s minutes is still an issue that needs to be addressed. The Science Department will meet again next Tuesday, so Corey could include language about the Science issue in the document as well.
* Linda Nelson mentioned that it would be good to have these fixes completed before advising begins on November 3. The Committee will look for additional problems or issues to discuss at the September 30 LACOB meeting.
* Lyn Brodersen suggested that we create a set of advising notes to accompany the LAC Grid.

Linda Nelson indicated that the website does not address LAC Theme Areas, but they are addressed in the DARS. Perhaps we could add information to the FAQ section on the LAC website. Linda will revisit the document and make suggestions to LACOB about content.

* There are still a variety of issues surrounding the “Major Requirement” course in the LAC. Right now, each major must include an upper-level course that addresses LAC outcomes, separate from the Contemporary Issues Seminar. Departments are responsible for developing and assessing these courses, with assistance from the LAC. There is no credit requirement for this course, so it potentially could be a one-credit capstone course.
* The “Major Requirement” course came forward as part of the LAC, but it is now separate from LAC credits; it is listed as a graduation requirement. The Committee agreed that this issue needs to go to Curriculum Committee, as it is a graduation requirement.
* Linda suggested that each major might have more than one course designated to meet this requirement. Lori Baker said that this presents a new way to consider the capstone; many courses may contain elements of the capstone experience. There may be a way to designate a few courses in each major as meeting one or two of the intended outcomes of the capstone experience. We need to be sure to revisit the rubrics developed for this particular course.
* Corey Butler will come to the Chairs’ Meeting on Tuesday, September 28, at 4:00 pm to discuss the issue with the Chairs and to gather feedback from them regarding this course.

**Other**

* Lyn Brodersen brought up the possibility of electronic delivery of documents to LACOB. If Curriculum Committee still wants paper copies, they can deliver one copy to the Deans’ Office and Kris can send it out electronically.
* Lori Baker has heard that Moorhead and St. Cloud have been told that they need to redo their core curricula. Lyn Brodersen said that she will contact Louise Hoxworth for more information about what the issues are.
* Lyn Brodersen moved to adjourn the meeting; Corey Butler seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:15 am.

Respectfully submitted by Lyn Brodersen