**CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**

February 12, 2016

Present: Becker, Faller-Mitchell, Gay, McCandless, Mercier, Miller-Francisco, Smith; Adams, Ayers, DeRoss, Waters

Guests: Wesley Leonard, Deborah Brown

The meeting began at 11:00 a.m. The minutes from the February 4 meeting were accepted.

Native American Studies

Introductions were exchanged with Wesley Leonard. He said this is a turning point for the Native American Studies program. The addition of faculty member Brook Colley has helped change the direction of the program; she has her PhD in Native American Studies and some of the proposed changes have been informed by her expertise. Smith asked what students’ motivations are when they pursue a NAS minor or certificate here. Leonard said it’s important to recognize NAS as a discipline that can also be applied away from native North America. But there is still a large focus for students who want to work in Indian country or on reservations. Some of these students would also be interested in a NAS major, which is an eventual goal, but the proposed changes are good with or without an NAS major. The program is designed for Native students and non-Natives.

McCandless said it looks like the course sequence is better aligned now. Miller-Francisco said the new course NAS 330 (Learning Native American Languages) is fascinating to her. Leonard explained some of the ideas behind the course, and that students would be in the same class with different language abilities and studying different native languages. Leonard’s expertise is reclamation of languages that are no longer spoken; students will be using original sources in many cases. Sometimes students will need permission to study a certain language.

The committee members asked questions about specific courses. Becker asked about NAS 270 being “taught in a Native American oral tradition.” Leonard said this has always been the case in this class but it wasn’t specified; he also noted that there is not just one Native American oral tradition. Other questions concerned NAS 375, 390, 301, and 410. It was noted that the syllabus for NAS 410 (Orientation to Research in Native American Studies) calls for students to work with the Digital Media Center. Waters recommended that NAS coordinate this well in advance with DMC staff to make sure this can be handled appropriately. The committee continued to discuss details about the program revisions.

Smith/Gay moved to approve all the changes to the Native American Studies program; the motion passed 7Y/0N/0A. (Leonard left the meeting.)

University Seminar

Deborah Brown joined the meeting and introductions were exchanged. She provided an overview of the University Seminar changes and said most of it was clean-up of catalog descriptions and other details. In addition to the changes summarized before the meeting, USEM 185 will be a maximum of 8 credits. The course description for USEM 100 has been further revised.

The committee discussed the issue of reference citations in academic papers, and the pros and cons of using traditional APA or MLA patterns, or using citation software that is increasingly available.

Faller-Mitchell/Miller-Francisco moved to approve the University Seminar curriculum changes; the motion passed 7Y/0N/0A.

The meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.