

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

March 3, 2016

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

Guests: Miles Inada

The meeting began at 10:30 a.m. The minutes from the February 26 meeting were accepted.

Art:

Email correspondence provided to committee following prior meeting. Art made significant changes last year; undergoing significant changes within the arts. Separate changes with EMDA under consideration but will be held until a future year. Programming for Artists ART 461 – reviewed as a department the justification between 300-level and 400-level. 400-level should be more depth or require experience with 300-level classes. Therefore, the Programming for Artists is more appropriate for the 300 level (although at times, students aren't really ready for the content of the class).

Question (DeRoss) EMDA 205 used to be a 300 level (361) non-lab science; this will need to be captured in advising.

Question (Waters) Could this be considered as an "H" strand course? Miles agreed and indicates this would be considered in the future as a proposal. May also consider EMDA 203 as an "H" strand – needs to be enhanced.

Challenge of this curriculum content to provide students with foundation and then options for growth and student choice.

Question (Gay) why 203 is not a pre-requisite. Will be reviewed. Issue is more of a practical one in that students by the 400 level have had such a different type of preparation – students are sometimes unable to register for the 400 level courses if they don't have the computerized pre-req. This adds to the stress of students, teachers, advisors. Idea: Could put a class restriction or a required instructor signature (both of which have their own problems). Class Restriction might make the most sense to ensure students are not taking the 400 level courses as a first course in the content area. Another issue comes up with Transfer students – working on idea of better articulation with RCC and other community colleges to make sure the courses offered there are covering the preparatory content needed for the upper division courses. This is a broader conversation. **Suggestion** (Smith) that this issue be addressed in a narrative form addressing some of the skills and knowledge necessary - encouraging students to better self-select in the course description. **Suggestion** to allow sophomores with instructor signature.

Hope is to provide somewhat of a matrix for the plan for courses for students so they understand how they move through the major. Miles offers the idea of more of a narrative explaining the expectations with each course and why they should be taken in a certain order.

Plan: Class restriction Junior and above plus additional narrative about what knowledge students should have for ART 322.

EMDA is encouraging students from other majors to take courses. About half of the students have some background that prepares them for the challenge of the courses.

Question (McCandless) Is there a component of writing within these courses? Miles indicates not really a focus, possibly more of a narrative especially in the studio courses upper division. Not research-based writing.

Question (Gay) Change 350 to a two-credit class....this idea has been withdrawn.

Question Modified courses listed as variable 1-4 credits but historically always offered as 4 credits. Should these be changed from variable to only 4-credits? ART 358 – Spatial Studies has been done as 2-credit variation in unusual situations. Reasoning: allow for some experimentation with curriculum to be more responsive to student needs and to simplify the catalog regarding the number of courses and the number of faculty. In practice, a mixed bag; two-credit classes can be problematic. Miles would like to keep the flexibility for another year to see if this can be ironed out. Miles accepting of the change to eliminate variability in the future. Challenge is if students are selecting variable credits. (Adams) Thought that the system allows for the course to be offered for any number of credits – determined by the program. (Adams) High repeatability issue – concern students cannot truly improve their grade if they do poorly. Miles indicates this hasn't been a problem, but will continue to monitor this. Financial aid is tracking these large numbers of repeatable courses.

Minor: Discussion regarding students using the same courses for minor and major. Encourage ways to communicate to students to avoid problems. Waters will provide minor policy language on this.

Gay/ Becker moved to approve the changes for Art and EMDA; the motion passed 5Y/0N/0A. (Miles Inada left the meeting.)

Clarification of issues from prior meetings:

Communications:

- Deletion of cross-listed courses with COMM 448 (BA448, CCJ 448, ED 450, PS 448, Psy 448)

Foreign Languages and Literatures:

- Modifications of courses (FR 426, 427, 428, 450, 460)

Mathematics:

- Modifications to courses (MTH 361, 461, 461C, 461D)

Music:

- Deletion of courses (MUS 360H, 361H, 362H, 460H)

Theatre Arts:

- Modification of courses

Question regarding Dance Courses – already belong to Theatre Arts – why not use TA prefix so that all students are registering under the same prefix. Smith recalls there was a desire to keep a “Dance Program” – marketing driven decision. McCandles recalls the desire to raise the profile of dance as a program. Waters mentions some conversations about increasing the academic content within these dance courses. Problem is more along the lines of cross-listing and management within the registration system. Course title “Special Studies” – difficult to recognize it’s a dance course so the “D” prefix at least identifies it as a dance class.

Question: Is the intent to offer these as hard numbers eventually? Committee would like to ask Dance representative to come in to discuss these questions. (David Humphrey)

Consider invitations for Spring meetings: Computer Sciences (Peter and Kevin)

The meeting adjourned at 11:32 a.m.