**Curriculum Committee**

Friday, February 17, 2017

**Present:** Andrew Gay, Vincent Smith, Tim Becker (by phone), Susan Faller-Mitchell, Emily Miller-Francisco; Karen DeRoss, Karen Adams, Jody Waters, Mathew Cable

**Guests:** Kylan de Vries

The Meeting began at 10:02 am.

**Minutes from 2/10 Meeting**

The minutes from the February 10th meeting were accepted as written.

**Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies**

Kylan de Vries discussed the proposed changes for Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies. He said the program has been slowly adding new courses, and the proposed new course GSWS 313 was developed in response to student interest in the subject. The hope is to make it a University Studies H Strand course sometime in the future, but not yet. For GSWS 301, 341 and 342 enrollment hasn’t been great, so the hope is that updating names may inspire more student interest. In the case of GSWS 301, the course is more broadly about gender, not just about women. Regarding adding the words “May be applied to the Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies minor” to the descriptions of a number of non-GSWS courses, many of the courses involved have been applicable to the minor for years and years, but it has not previously been noted. Other changes include some minor cleanup.

Smith asked about the line to be added about classes applying to the GSWS minor. De Vries said those courses have been cross-referenced and the goal now is to make it clear for students when they’re registering. This will also help when new faculty are hired to teach those courses, so they will have a better idea of who is taking the course. de Vries described how he had the Program Chair and Division Director for each course sign off on the courses in their areas that will have that note added to its description. Adams said that in the case of the University Studies statement in course descriptions it applies to all students. She asked what kind of precedent does this set for expanding course descriptions and are we worried about having this become a marketing tool. Waters said that’s a good point, but GSWS is a special case because so many courses in the minor come from other disciplines. It will be up to Curriculum Committee to provide oversight so course descriptions aren’t expanded inappropriately or without justification. Neely said there was a minor code added to those courses so students can find them. de Vries suggested that GSWS is the only truly interdisciplinary program, offering 19-20 courses per term, only 2 or 3 of which have the GSWS prefix. Smith said hopefully some day in the future we wouldn’t need to do this. DegreeWorks can help solve this problem. He said he feels the same way in his program: there are classes that count for other majors and he didn’t know about it, so sometimes he would wonder why so many students not in his program were taking those courses. Waters said she thinks for now including the note in course descriptions makes good sense, especially given the longevity of those courses. Some students have even earned enough credits for a minor without knowing it.

Faller-Mitchell asked about GSWS 301 and whether it is still essentially the same course. de Vries said it is mostly the same thing, but it is more current to talk about gender, not just women’s movements. There are new readings but the core of the course remains; it will just be more broad. Gay asked if a student would have an argument for getting credit twice. de Vries said he would probably not allow it, but it hasn’t been taught for 4 or 5 years, so there’s little likelihood of that happening anyway. The themes are going to be the same, and the readings are updated all the time. He said he’s never had a student say “this is repetitive.” Often, when students want to take a class again it’s not to satisfy a requirement for their minor, but because they are genuinely interested in the content. Gay asked if it would be taught by a new hire. de Vries said he has a new person who is qualified to teach it, and he’s hoping to offer it next year, or maybe the year after.

Neely mentioned the COMM 460 courses, which are proposed to have the “May be applied to the GSWS minor” note added. Students using the current catalog would need to have approval for the course to count toward the minor. She said we can add a minor restriction for future catalogs. Gay said the COMM 460 courses are basically the same as a COMM 399 course. Waters said issues with courses like these, which may give students more options than they really should have, can be handled through advising.

Waters mentioned the new course proposal for GSWS 313 and pointed out that it lists as a prerequisite GSWS 201 with a note saying it’s recommended but not required. She said this should be changed so GSWS is not listed as a prerequisite, but is mentioned as recommended in the course description. De Vries said okay. Those courses tend to get a lot of non GSWS minors.

Miller-Francisco/Faller-Mitchell moved to accept the proposed changes in Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies with the minor edits mentioned above; the motion passed 5Y/0N/0A.

**Wine Business Issue**

Neely said the question of BA 409 or BA 409W (Wine) may be coming back to be considered by the Committee at a future meeting. The program has suggested that it may prefer to use BA 409, without the W.

The meeting adjourned at 10:24am.