**Curriculum Committee**

Wednesday, October 25, 2017

**Present:** Andrew Gay, Emily Miller-Francisco, John Sollinger, Laura Jessup, Anna Oliveri, Vincent Smith; Karen Adams, Jody Waters, MaryAnn Neely, Donny Nickelson.

Guests: Prakash Chenjeri, Justin Harmon, Kris Danford.

The meeting began at 9:00am.

The minutes from the October 18th meeting were accepted.

**Philosophy**

Prakash Chenjeri and Justin Harmon discussed the proposed changes in Philosophy. Regarding the proposed new course, PHL 209, Chenjeri said that Harmon, being a new colleague, brings new expertise. SOU has not had a course in aesthetics, but we are working toward that now that Harmon is here. Harmon said that the proposed course, Philosophy of Art, is narrower than aesthetics, which will be coming in the future, and will likely be a 300-level class. The currently proposed course is designed to be writing intensive, with opportunities to reflect concretely on arts in the community, a major goal of the course.

Chenjeri said that one goal of many courses in the Philosophy program is to bridge across disciplines to draw in students and introduce them to the kind of critical thinking promoted by philosophy. Gay asked whether Philosophy has reached out to the art department regarding this course? Chenjeri said yes.

Adams pointed out that the course proposed is currently proposed for graded only, while University Studies courses usually allow for the P/NP option. Harmon said that he is new to the process here, so he was not aware of that, but he would have no problem changing it to add the P/NP option.

Waters said she is curious about the proposed workload, which seems intense. Harmon said he likes to start ambitious, but may pare it back. He’s already thinking about removing one paper to encourage more focus on the community based learning element. He said he is also more accustomed to 16 week courses, so he’s still adapting to the 10 week schedule.

Adams said that 209 courses are usually practicum courses here, so it might be better to consider a new number. Harmon said he would not object to finding a more appropriate number.

Gay asked about the frequency with which the course will be taught; yearly? Chenjeri said yes.

Miller-Francisco/Sollinger moved to approve the proposed changes in Philosophy with a change in the grade mode and number for the proposed course; the motion passed, 6Y/0N/0A.

Chenjeri noted that the course has been provisionally approved by University Studies for E strand, pending Curriculum committee approval.

**Theatre**

Kris Danford discussed the proposed changes in Theatre. SOU had a Musical Theatre Minor existence pre-retrenchment, but it was cut back in the retrenchment process. Also, the instructor who had been in charge was an adjunct, and has since passed away, so the program didn’t have anyone to run it. She said Musical Theatre is one of her areas of concentration, and it is a really important skill for our students. Every theatre in the country is doing musicals, including OSF, who are integrating more musicals into their season. That is why theatre would like to get the Musical Theatre minor going again.

Adams said that MUS 121 has a corequisite, and asked if that should be included in the catalog copy. Danford said yes; this minor will probably be of most interest to Theatre and Music students; all of the options are to fulfill a basic requirement, in this case musicianship. Adams also pointed out that MUP 170 is currently restricted to Music minors; will Music allow overrides for these students? Danford said she ran all of this by Paul French, but didn’t catch that issue. She said that with the several options available, any given student should be able to fulfill requirement with one of the courses. Sollinger could you just add the MUS 121 corequisite, MUS 124, to the list? Danford said that could be an option. Waters said she is a little bit worried about the credit discrepancy, but it can be managed in advising. Danford said we could simplify it and create 2 options.

Neely mentioned the danger of getting a minor in the same program as your major, which is against policy as listed in the catalog. Smith said it almost begins to look like it should be a concentration. Gay said Communication has a similar issue with EMDA but it works out. Sollinger asked if that would be considered precedent. Waters said the fact that Musical Theatre was already a minor prior to retrenchment would be precedent.

Regarding the proposed new course – TA 129, Singing for Musical Theatre – Danford said the department currently offers acting and dance for Musical Theatre, but not voice. Voice for Musical Theatre is pretty specific to that discipline, as opposed to classical voice, for example. This studio style course will provide an opportunity for students to develop specific tools for Musical Theatre and practice getting up in front of their classmates. Gay asked if SOU has never had a course in that before. Danford said no, we have voice for actors, but doesn’t include singing.

Gay asked about the differences between the currently proposed minor and the old minor. Danford said most of the current proposal is based on the old minor, there are no very significant changes.

Miller-Francisco asked whether someone had spoken to the library. The needs probably wouldn’t be extensive, but it may change how we make future decisions in what gets ordered. Waters said that because the previous catalog had a Musical Theatre minor open to Music and Theatre majors the library may already have a fair amount of the kind of materials needed.

Adams noted that the proposed course is listed as graded only and asked if it could be optional. Danford said yes. Waters asked about the repeatability. Danford said it is challenging to really develop significant changes over just 10 weeks, so it would be beneficial to allow students to take it twice.

Adams said there may be some registration barriers that cause issues because the Minor is trying to cater toward different groups of students and some courses have varying prerequisite requirements. Danford said most of the non-Theatre majors will take Intro to Acting, rather than Aesthetics; for Theatre students, they would already have needed to take the foundations course, so it wouldn’t be a problem.

Waters said that before approving the Minor we may need to discuss the issue keeping it within the major. Miller-Francisco asked about the possibility of making it a concentration. Smith said the issue then is that Music majors couldn’t get it because you can’t get a concentration in another major. Miller-Francisco asked about a minor/concentration. Waters said that they’re different things so that wouldn’t really be possible. Neely said we’re likely to see this issue more often, so it would be worth revisiting the academic policy. Smith suggested that a certificate might be a better approach. Waters agreed that a certificate seemed like a good thing to explore. Smith said it’s a separate degree, so there are advantages. Gay asked Danford if that is something Theatre would want to consider. Danford said yes, she would want to talk to the Theatre Program Chairs, but it sounds like it might be worth exploring.

Smith/Miller-Francisco moved to approve TA 129 with the change of grade mode; the motion passed, 6Y/0N/0A.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35am.