**Curriculum Committee**

Friday, March 15, 2019

**Present:** Larry Shrewsbury, Laura Jessup, Emily Miller-Francisco, Anna Oliveri, Erin Wilder; MaryAnn Neely, Jody Waters, Tiffany Thom

**Guests**: Erik Palmer, Bill Hughes

The meeting began at 1:35pm.

The minutes from the March 1st meeting were accepted.

**HISTORY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE**

Bill Hughes discussed the proposed changes in History and Political Science. He said some of the changes relate to the departure of Paul Pavlich, who brings a specific expertise to the discipline. With that in mind, some courses are proposed to be revised and recalibrated for a more orthodox political scientist. Oliveri asked if these would be modifications to the current classes or new classes. Hughes said these are modifications. He said the faculty in the program have written the courses so they are able to teach to their strengths. For example, when Pavlich teaches about the presidency he does it from the perspective of a constitutional lawyer. The program is not anticipating that it will necessarily replace him with another constitutional lawyer. Hughes said PS 201 and 202 are gateway courses for the discipline. Oliveri asked if the content of the courses will be changing. Hughes said they are being refocused; the content is not really changing, but the perspective is. Waters said it is especially important to look at whether the outcomes are changing. Hughes said the outcomes will be essentially the same. He said Pavlich, with his expertise, could “lawyer up” in these classes, but others may not be able to do that. Waters noted that PS 202 is an Explorations strand course, so altering outcomes would require a check-in with University Studies. Hughes said the objectives will be the same, the course will just be taught differently. Hughes said the program doesn’t know who will be hired to fill this role, so it’s trying to make things as easy on a new hire as possible. Neely asked if students would know they’ve already taken the course. Hughes said yes.

Jessup asked why the proposal for HST/PS 461 indicates that it will be graded only. She asked if the program would be willing to make the grade mode optional. Hughes said he couldn’t speak for Walcher on this specific question, but speaking for himself he doesn’t want anyone in his upper division classes who’s not taking the course for a letter grade. Those courses are “deep water,” requiring lots of reading and expecting lots of knowledge going in. Ayers said that looking at other upper division courses in the program not many are offered as an option. Thom asked if the program anticipates getting a lot of non-majors in these 400-level courses. Hughes said no, the program almost never sees non-majors take courses at that level. He said sometimes there might be a Political Science major pursuing a History minor, and the program would expect that student to take a course like this for a letter grade. He said the exception is integrations courses, where the P/NP option acts as a pressure release so non-major students don’t have to worry too much about the grade hanging over their head. Thom said she would actually be leery of offering a course with the grade mode optional that is so predominantly taken by majors. In such a case we run the risk of majors taking it with the P/NP option without realizing they won’t get credit toward their major.

Thom discussed the prerequisites for the proposed new course HST/PS 461. She said that it is not enforceable as currently written. Hughes said the program wasn’t sure how best to accomplish what they intended with the prerequisites for that course. He said this is one consequence of being a small program. Thom said one option would be to just list Junior standing and allow instructors to override this when appropriate. Hughes said the course will be taught by Walcher, so he’d like to check with him about the most appropriate prerequisites.

Thom said that the prerequisite of “Upper division standing” for the proposed new course PS 344 should actually be “Junior standing or above,” which is the way we refer to this requirement for other courses. Hughes said that is fine, he just hadn’t noticed that this was how other courses expressed the same thing.

Oliveri/Miller-Francisco moved to approve the proposed changes in History and Political Science, including the wording change to the PS 344 prerequisite (“Junior standing or above” rather than “Upper division standing”), and with the understanding that the prerequisites for HST/PS 461 will be clarified separately with Walcher. The motion passed, 5Y/0N/0A.

**COMMUNICATION**

Erik Palmer discussed the proposed changes in Communication. He said the biggest changes in Communication were already approved with the new DCIN major. The items to be considered today are more technical and procedural. These changes include two new courses, which have been offered as 407s this year. They are taught by the new Assistant Professor Kristin Hocevar as part of the program’s commitment to teach courses relevant to Healthcare Administration major. Other changes include cleaning up prerequisites, and making changes to courses counting toward various concentrations and minors.

Shrewsbury asked about the proposed deletion of COMM 345, Introduction to Cybernetics and Cyberculture. Palmer said that it has historically been cross-listed but the program hasn’t offered it in a while and it doesn’t align with what the program does now.

Neely mentioned the various courses being removed from majors and minors and said that they will still be in DegreeWorks, so students who took them when they were approved for those majors or minors will still get credit for them, they’ll just be hidden.

Thom asked about COMM 300. She noted that the Committee approved COMM 300B as part of the first round of changes that came from the program this year, but there doesn’t seem to be a COMM 300A. Palmer said it would be best to change COMM 300 to 300A.

Jessup noted that the proposal for COMM 446 lists the grade mode as optional. Palmer said that COMM 446 and 486 are both approved for University Studies and making the grade mode optional is consistent with other integration courses. Ayers said a student in one of the courses currently being taught as a 407 reached out to ask for strand credit. Neely said we can put an attribute on the course so the student will get that credit.

Shrewsbury noted that the syllabi for COMM 446 and 486 list an A+ as a possible grade but we can’t give that. Palmer said he will pass that note along to Hocevar. He said he believes that is how she taught the courses at her previous institution.

Jessup/Oliveri moved to approve the proposed changes in Communication, including changing the proposed COMM 300 to COMM 300A; the motion passed, 5Y/0N/0A.

The meeting ended at 2:12pm.