

**Draft Minutes of  
Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee  
Meeting of September 30, 2014**

Attending: Professors, Steven Bayne, Scott Hiller, Margaret McClure, David McFadden, John Miecznikowski, Kathy Nantz, Laura Nash (chair), Michael Pagano. Dean Jim Simon.

Meeting called to order at 3:30 p.m.

1. **Chair's report:**

Prof. Nash thanked everyone for excellent work at last weeks meeting. She reported that she had emailed the chairs and proposers of the courses dealt with at that meeting, and that they were appreciative of the committee's comments.

Prof. Nash reported that since last week's meeting she had approved a course number and title change for Politics.

Prof. Nash reported that the Health Sciences Minor proposal would be on the agenda for the next meeting.

2. **Approval of remaining new course proposals:**

**GM 241: Modern German Cinema**

Prof. Bayne mentioned that the syllabus is confusing with regard to the number of absences allowed before there is a penalty. It is first stated in the syllabus that each student has two free absences, but then it is stated that it is only after the third absence that a student's grade will be reduced. This is confusing and the two statements seem inconsistent.

Prof. Nash said that 9b should not be a problem and from a film perspective this seems like an excellent course.

**MOTION (McFadden/Miecznikowski): To approve GM 241.**

**MOTION PASSED: 8 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.**

**HI 373: History of North Africa Since 1700**

Prof. Miecznikowski noted that while he was still chair, he had received email from Professor Marsans-Sakly correcting the grading percentages so that they add up to 100% rather than 105%.

Prof. Bayne noted that there seemed to be a number of things missing from the syllabus: there is no academic honesty statement, no attendance policy, and no disability statement. Prof. Nantz said that our form does not require these, but we should ask Prof. Marsans-Sakly to make sure she includes these statements in her actual course syllabus.

Prof. Bayne noted that the course is listed as contributing to Black Studies and International Studies, but there are no support letters attached. Prof. McClure agreed and said that either the letters need to be provided or the statement of the interdisciplinary contribution needs to be stricken from the form.

The committee discussed the goals and objectives and thought they were good, but Dean Simon said that he would have switched her labels because her goals seemed more like objectives and the objectives seemed more like goals.

**MOTION (McFadden/Nantz): To approve HI 373.**

**MOTION PASSED: 8 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.**

### **PO 138: Border Politics**

Prof. McFadden thought this was a super course.

Dean Simon commended Prof. Leatherman for the group work included in the course.

Prof. Bayne noted that the syllabus states that the usual penalty for academic dishonesty in the course is an F for the assignment, but the Journal of Record requires that professors assign a zero for the assignment with the option of failing the student for the course.

Prof. Nantz noted that according to the form the course doesn't contribute to any interdisciplinary programs, but it has a letter of support from International Studies and it is a JUHAN course. Prof. McFadden thought that not listing it on the form was probably just an oversight. Prof. Nantz was worried that if it isn't listed on the form, then it won't get coded properly by the Registrar. Prof. Nash noted that she will be meeting with Registrar so will make sure the coding is accurate.

In a side discussion the committee agreed that the new coding requirements on the proposal form are not well understood by chairs and that Prof. Nash should contact chairs to make sure they understand the coding requirements.

**MOTION (Miecznikowski/Nantz): To approve PO 138.**

**MOTION PASSED: 8 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.**

### **RS 260: Religion in the U.S.**

Prof. Nash noted that Prof. Willsky-Ciollo was a new faculty member. Prof. Bayne noted that she must have had good departmental mentoring as it was an excellent proposal.

Prof. Miecznikowski mentioned that if this is a MWTh class, then on page eight when Prof. Willsky-Ciollo states that students' weekly posts are due by 8 a.m. on the day of class it should be either Monday, Wednesday or *Thursday*, not Monday, Wednesday, or Friday.

**MOTION (Miecznikowski/McClure): To approve RS 260.**

**MOTION PASSED: 8 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.**

### **RS 273: Islamic Ethical and Legal Thought**

Prof. McFadden asked what the answer to 9b was. Prof. Miecznikowski read out the answer. The committee thought this was adequate. Prof. Bayne noted, however, that there was no answer supplied for question 11. Prof. McFadden suggested that the last part of the answer to 9b probably deals with this. The committee said Prof. Nash should ask for an explicit answer to question 11.

The committee discussed the student learning objectives, and Prof. McClure noted that there is no special heading for these on the syllabus. Prof. McFadden agreed that this would be helpful, and further suggested that the learning objectives should be strengthened.

Prof. Nantz wondered whether Prof. Nguyen would consider submitting this course for world diversity credit. Dean Simon noted that for the World Diversity question in the coding section of the form, the answer is listed as “not yet.” Prof. Nantz suggested we should specifically ask Prof. Nguyen to consider submitting the course.

**MOTION (Miecznikowski/Hiller): To approve RS 273.**

**MOTION PASSED: 8 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.**

### **SP 306: Cuban Film: A Close Look at over Five Decades of a Revolution**

Prof. McFadden said this is a good course.

Prof. Bayne suggested that we remind Prof. Farrell that since there is no final exam, the final paper should be due at scheduled final exam time.

Prof. Nantz commend Prof. Farrell for her goals and objectives.

Dean Simon wondered whether this course should be cross-listed with VPA or whether the possibility of counting for core credit should be explored.

**MOTION (Nantz/McFadden): To approve SP 306.**

**MOTION PASSED: 7 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.**

### **MPA 425: Proposal Writing and Fund Development**

Prof. Nash noted that the course is a graduate course. Dean Simon noted that this is the undergraduate course on steroids.

Prof. Pagano expressed his concerns that a grant writing course is already being offered by the English department, and he wondered why this course is being offered separately. If English already has this course shouldn't they be offering this course as a grad course in an interdisciplinary way?

Dean Simon said that he would find this troubling if English had a grad program, but they don't

Prof. Pagano said but there is no reason English couldn't offer a 300 level course that MPA can cross-list for its students.

Prof. Nash wanted to know whether English knows about this proposal, and Dean Simon said that Prof. LeClair (Dir. of MPA) corresponded with Prof. Petrino (Chair of English) and she was fine with the proposal. Prof. LeClair also said that the MPA would be happy to use an English grad course if it were available, but it wasn't.

Dean Simon noted that Prof. Sobocinski (the proposer of MPA 425) is the same person who already teaches the English Department course.

Prof. Pagano emphasized that it is a governance issue, but if English is okay with this, then he does not have a problem here. Prof. Nantz asked if there wasn't a precedent for courses like this such as the various statistics courses offered by different departments.

Prof. Nash wondered whether there any state requirements concerning this; she wondered whether we will see more of this, and whether we need to adopt guidelines, or do we let departments decide for themselves? The committee discussed these issues and agreed it should be put on a future agenda.

Prof. Miecznikowski noted that the proposer's name was misspelled in the answer to 9b.

**MOTION (Miecznikowski/McFadden): To approve MPA 425.**

**MOTION PASSED: 7 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.**

**MOTION (Nantz/McFadden): To place the issue of whether we need guidelines for the appropriateness of new course proposals from one department when the same course is already being offered in another department.**

**MOTION PASSED: 7 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.**

After the MPA 425 was approved it was noted that Prof. Sobocinski is a part-time faculty member. As a result, this stirred up the controversy about whether part-time faculty are permitted to propose new courses in the college. Prof. Bayne noted that although it seemed to be at least the recent position of the A&SCC not to allow proposals from part-time faculty, that it has happened in the past, and that there isn't anything he is aware of in the Handbook, JoR, or CAS Governance Document that prohibits it. Prof. Nantz mentioned a number of issues that may arise if part-time faculty can propose new courses, and said she would be willing to do some research. There seemed to be general agreement that this is an issue that we need discuss at a future meeting.

### **ID 395: Water Focus Interdisciplinary Seminar**

Prof. McFadden noted that although the idea behind the course may be laudable, we need to hold this proposal to the same standards as all other proposals, and in this case there is so much left out of this proposal (syllabus information, course goals and student learning outcomes, etc.) that it really isn't a completed proposal.

Prof. Bayne noted that he liked the idea behind the course, but there are governance problems concerning whether this proposal may even be brought before the committee. The Journal of Record requires that new course proposals are first approved by the appropriate programs or departments before coming before school curriculum committees. In this case there is no approval by an existing department or program. Dean Simon noted that there is no ID program or department and that you can't just make one up.

Prof. Miecznikowski suggested that perhaps this could be like an honors thesis where students are required to work within their own departments. Prof. Nantz thought this wasn't what was wanted as it will not reflect any sort of water designation.

Professor Pagano noted that the independent studies directors wouldn't be getting compensated for their work—he asked whether the director of the course would be compensated.

Dean Simon suggested that perhaps there was a way to have the course sponsored by Professional Studies or by Environmental Studies.

Professor Bayne suggested that perhaps students could sign up for Independent Studies courses with their respective departments and add a subtitle to the department's independent studies course title that would then make clear the connection to the university water theme.

After discussing some other possible approaches, Prof. Nash mentioned that it is not our job to find a way to make this course work for us.

**MOTION (Nantz/McFadden): To reject ID 395.**

**MOTION PASSED: 7 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.**

### 3. Other business and announcements:

- A. Prof. Miecznikowski (UCC Chair) told the committee that as of now other than approval of the minutes from the last UCC meeting, the agenda item he has for the next meeting concerns whether diversity designations should be continued by course or instructor. He asked our advice about whether in light of this he should cancel next week's UCC meeting. After the committee begged and pleaded with him not to cancel the meeting, Prof. Miecznikowski reported that he will likely cancel the meeting.
- B. Prof. Nash noted that A&SCC's next meeting is scheduled for 10/22, and the Health Sciences Minor will be on the agenda.

4. Adjournment

**MOTION (Miecznikowski/McFadden): To adjourn.**

**MOTION PASSED: 7 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.**

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven M. Bayne