

Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes
January 29, 2019, 3:30p.m.
CNS 8

Attendees: Sergio Adrada Rafael, Rachelle Brunn-Bevel, Carol Ann Davis, Ryan Drake
Olivia Harriott, Martha LoMonaco Martin Nguyen, Margaret Wills

Call to Order

1. Approval of Minutes for the December 11, 2018 meeting

Motion: LoMonaco moves to approve; Drake seconds

Vote: 7 in favor; 1 abstention; motion passes

2. Chair's Announcements

- a. Nguyen requested the link for the CIP codes be added to the online course submission form.
- Nguyen informed the Committee that the Dean of the School of Engineering, Richard Heist, will be visiting the Committee to answer the questions they had posed.
- At some point in the near future the Registrar's office is going to use a 4 digit numbering system.
- The Committee discussed the possibility of requesting a comprehensive course booklet from the Registrar. Nguyen will follow up on this and ask for it be put on the agenda for a future UCC meeting.

3. Course Proposals

a. PS 90 Physics of the Atmosphere, Ocean, and Climate

Motion: LoMonaco moves to approve; Harriott seconds

- LoMonaco – Thought it was great. It is a hands on science course aimed at core non-science majors.
- Wills – The active learning is great. Students love using their phones to weigh in on important topics.
- Harriott – Is the field trip mandatory? Accessibility should be clarified. Is it essential learning material?
- Adrada Rafael – Nazarian mentions that he will work on a time line that works for all the students.
- Drake – We need to clarify if it is mandatory.
- Nguyen will ask Nazarian to send the Committee accessibility options for the field trip. He will ask him to revise that section on the syllabus.

Vote: All in favor; motion passes unanimously

b. MA 317 Applied Statistics

Motion: Drake moves to approve; Wills seconds
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- LoMonaco – Sounds well thought out and looks important for an upper division class.
- Brunn-Bevel – Appreciates that it is mentioned how this can be used outside of math, such as in social sciences and business. Students who will be going to graduate schools might be interested in this course.
- The Committee is concerned of the amount of work due at the end of the semester. It seems as though 50% of the work is due during the last two weeks of class.
- Nguyen will ask for clarification regarding date of the final paper.

Vote: All in favor; motion passes unanimously
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4. Curricular Changes to American Studies Program

Professor Peter Bayers discusses the American Studies program's current curriculum: one core course, a final project and nine electives. Outside reviewers recommended cohesion in the program. The Associate Dean contacted Bayers regarding the large amount of electives listed, as they are not all being taught. This may raise an eyebrow with accreditation. Also, it is a problem with marketing, as new students may not be able to take the courses that they were interested in. We are going to return to the self-study and go back to the 16 that had originally been proposed to shape the program. There are themes used to guide students in the undergraduate program. We want to create continuity between the undergraduate and the graduate program. Three of six themes could be taken for a concentration (although faculty are more comfortable with four out of the six). Students would still have a rich array of electives.

Regarding course rotation, we will offer seven courses a year, three in the fall, two in the spring and two in the summer. We will map it in a way where one core course and one elective will be available in the fall, spring and the summer. AS 400 will be offered in the fall. If the program grows, we can potentially offer more electives at a given time. Most faculty will be able to teach four out of the six of these theme courses. They will bring in their element of expertise as well as expanding their knowledge in the field.

- LoMonaco – One of the aspects that is delightful is as our colleagues in American Studies reimagine these courses in their discipline, they will continue to share their reading list and pull from multiple disciplines.

Bayers states:

- He intends to allow access to the archives of syllabi.
- Many electives will be excised from the course catalog.
- They are thinking of creating a Special Topics course.

Nguyen asks the Committee if they will consider the proposed new requirements (curricular changes) for the American Studies Program.

Motion: Adrada Rafael moves to approve; Drake seconds

Discussion

Committee remarks:

- They appreciate the structure that went into this and like how it came from a self-study.
- It has a great deal of faculty buy in, minutes etc.
- It is a well thought out arrangement, and will strengthen the experience for the students.

Vote: All in favor; motion passes unanimously

Course Proposals continued

- c. **AS 405 Values and Ethics: Social Justice in America**
- d. **AS 406 Power, Politics, and Institutions in the United States**
- e. **AS 407 America and the World**
- f. **AS 409 The Radical Imagination**
- g. **AS 410 Gender in American Society**

Motion: Harriott moves to approve AS 405,406,407,409,410; Davis seconds

Discussion

- A great deal of time and effort has gone into the development of the five courses.
- This was generated collaboratively.
- It details strong support across the faculty (in terms of the minutes).
- The five shell courses match well with the new core curriculum and the focus on social justice and speaks to their mission.

Vote: All in favor; motion passes unanimously

Nguyen suggests the last two items on the agenda be switched. The Proposed Minor in Leadership Ethics will be presented first.

5. Proposed Minor in Leadership Ethics, Department of Philosophy

Professor Sara Brill introduces the proposed minor - In light of the recent changes to the core curriculum, the Philosophy department began discussing how we might

make what we offer to the institution more transparent. Philosophy has been an integral part of the Jesuit education from the start, and that has made us perhaps a bit complacent in terms of demonstrating our value. As we were having conversations about identifying streams in our major and minor sequences to help guide students through aspects of what it means to study Philosophy, the institution was embarking on larger professional development initiatives for the College of Arts and Sciences students in particular. As I was looking through information that the newly appointed leadership and development program was coming out with, the emphasis on ethical leadership was everywhere. Philosophers talk about ethics and how to reason. The idea of providing a service of filling in substantive content as to what counts as ethical leadership, is how the idea for the minor began. It is a five course minor. PH 101: Introduction to Philosophy, PH 224: Critical Thinking, PH 297: Leadership Ethics Seminar and two ethics-designated courses of the students choosing. The vast majority of ethics designated courses will come from philosophy ethics courses. Courses from other programs may count if the syllabus indicated it would match what the department would count as the ethics designation.

Students will be getting a very deep understanding of the history of discussion and what constitutes ethics. It is valuable for students to be thinking and questioning what constitutes leadership.

We anticipate three main audiences.

1. Students who are already attracted to Philosophy. This is valuable to us in helping students of under-represented populations in Philosophy.
2. Students in the College of Arts and Sciences who have interest in deepening their understanding of the ethical dimensions of leadership. The minor will overlap nicely with certain core elements.
3. Other Schools in the university- This minor will have the integrity of a full philosophy minor. It will streamline instruction and offer a possible minor for a large body of students including the business and nursing schools.
 - Wills – Appreciates the future development of a leadership ethics internship. It will be an attractive piece to have on your resume.
 - Nguyen – Will the seminar be coming fairly soon?
 - Brill – Yes, I believe it will be discussed at our first department meeting this semester.

Motion: Wills moves to approve; LoMonaco seconds

Discussion

- The Committee agrees it is exciting and necessary.
- They hope the seminar will be proposed soon so that it might be offered next spring.
- Nguyen – What is the procedure for getting ethics designation?
- Drake – The Philosophy department would discuss this with the departments ahead of time for pre-approval.

Vote: All in favor; motion passes unanimously

6. Major & Minor changes to Religious Studies

- Nguyen – Because of the core curriculum change, we decided to make all 100 level courses count for orientation and 200 levels for exploration. It will be more transparent to students. Faculty will be able to craft the 100 level courses explicitly to their own interests and to the level of students.
- Adrada Rafael – It will be good for advising as well.

Motion: Davis moves to approve; Harriott seconds

Discussion

The Committee agrees this is a strong proposal. They like the pathway approach and that the students are now allowed to take 5 classes at the 200 *or* 300 level.

Vote: All in favor; motion passes unanimously

Meeting is adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Jean Siconolfi