

College Curriculum Committee

Minutes: February 16, 2012 – 3:15 – 321 Linton

In attendance: Dunn (AAH), Watts (English), Beretta (L&L), Rauscher (PHL), VanWieren (REL), Grubbs (RCS), Colson (THR), Blythe (WRAC), Pierce (Undergrad Student Rep) Dai (Grad Student Rep), Fisch-Ferguson (Grad Student Rep), Hoppenstand (UCC Rep), Swenson (Assoc Dean), Roraback (Dean's Office), Walker (Dean's Office), Guest: Kirk Kidwell (IAH)

1. Approval of the Agenda

APPROVED with agreement that Agenda Item 6 (Kirk Kidwell and IAH) be moved before Agenda Item 5 (Curricular requests).

2. Approval of January 19 Minutes

APPROVED

3. UCC updates (Hoppenstand)

Hoppenstand reported that everything passed at the full UCC. Concern was expressed at the SubC meeting regarding the similarity of course statements for a WRAC course series. In response to a question about the BFA in Art Education program change, Hoppenstand noted that it had not come up at the UCC. Swenson noted that it was scheduled to appear on the March agenda.

4. Teacher Education Council updates (Swenson)

Swenson reported that the Teacher Education Council did not meet.

5. Questions and Answers with IAH, Interim Director, Kirk Kidwell

A question was raised concerning cuts in the number of TAs and staffing of IAH courses. Kidwell noted that although models fall within his purview, questions of faculty, staff and TA lines are negotiations between Chairs and the Dean. He also observed that TA lines are deployed differently depending on the department (e.g., whether they are used for discussion sessions, stand alone sessions, etc.).

In a discussion of assessment of IAH courses, the point was raised that MSU mandates a writing requirement for the "A" courses, and as the number of students goes up, it becomes more difficult to give individualized attention to student writing. Kidwell noted that a faculty-driven focus on assessment in the IAH Teaching Commons has helped begin the process of exploring this issue.

It was noted that in departments like Art & Art History some faculty do not focus on writing. The question was raised as to whether IAH faculty can use alternatives to writing assessment. Kidwell noted that in creative process courses there can be more focus on performance; assignments may be geared toward building portfolios with less focus on writing, but current general education policy is that the IAH "A" courses are "writing intensive." He further noted that

the University level committee on Liberal Learning is developing rubrics that will be available university-wide, and will be available to IAH instructors and could focus on other forms of communication besides writing.

The question of why humanities majors are required to take two IAH courses, given that CNS majors are not required to take ISB/ISP courses, was raised. Kidwell noted that University administration has discouraged moving toward a distributive model of Integrative Studies. The Integrative Studies system is intended to expose students to an inter- and transdisciplinary approach. One model that has been considered is a transdisciplinary issues approach (for example, Health Care Policy as a focal point).

Several questions focused on whether MSU should be examining alternative models for Integrative Studies, and the composition, mission, structure and timeline of the Liberal Learning committee were raised. Kidwell explained that in September 2009 Associate Provost Estry and the Liberal Learning committee developed a mandate to examine other general education models with the constraint that a distributive model was not an option.

As part of this process, a committee composed of the three integrative studies directors and their associate deans along with the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Academic Affairs and other representatives from his office developed an application to participate in the AAC&U General Education for a Global Century national project, and MSU was selected for participation.

After initial meetings, representatives from this committee attended a week long summer Institute with discussions of new models, blending global learning and integrated learning, the approaches of other colleges, and faculty development. During a year of discussions since that retreat, Kidwell noted that more than one model is being considered, but that a model or set of ideas will eventually be presented to the University to consider as a whole.

When asked what CCC representatives should take back to their departments in terms of IAH courses, Kidwell suggested talking and thinking about Integrative Studies in terms of learning outcomes. Generally, IAH does not mandate coverage and courses are defined in general terms so that many courses are very flexible in terms of content. There is enough room in the catalog description to allow a focus on learning outcomes which can determine course design.

6. Curricular requests*

Arts & Letters

- **Program Change**

Swenson noted that Arts & Letters programs had recently been reviewed to remove courses deleted by departments as well as other changes. There will likely be additional changes as the program review continues.

Interdisciplinary Humanities
APPROVED

Humanities PreLaw
APPROVED

- **Course deletion (MSU Writing Requirement)**

AL 201 Writing Tutorial

This tutorial was originally developed as a 2 credit, pass/fail course for students who earned a 1.5 or less in their first-year writing course; students also had the option to repeat the writing course. Over time, this course became less useful as IAH expanded its A courses beyond IAH 201, which was the companion course to AL 201. Without a common curriculum, students in AL 201 could no longer focus on the IAH 201 readings and writing assignments for their common studies in AL 201.

Writing Center Director Trixie Smith has suggested that given AL 201's inferiority to simply repeating FYW, that the option be eliminated. However, Swenson noted challenges inherent in deleting AL 201, since many mistakenly believe the 2.0 required to enter IAH is an exit requirement for FYW, though this is not the case. However, there are places in university programs (degree navigator) where it appears that is the case, and the course is referenced in many ways in the catalog, the academic programs books and so on.

Finally, Swenson noted that a grade of 1.5 or less in FYW is highly correlated with dropping out of MSU. In suggesting that AL 201 be eliminated, she also observed that we need to look closely, as a college and university, at how we will intervene with students who earn a 1.5 or less in first-year writing. In order to provide time for commentary from other units, Swenson asked that the motion be tabled and voted upon in March.

Motion to delete
TABLED

WRA

- **New Courses**

Blythe explained that two new courses, WRA 225 and WRA 330, are proposed to take the place of WRA 417 and to shift from a 1 semester to 2 course sequence.

WRA 225 Introduction to Multimedia Writing
APPROVED CONDITIONALLY Pending confirmation that a program change is not needed

WRA 330 Writing Research in Communities and Cultures

A question about the second sentence of Item 10 was raised regarding how digital design was distinguished from design within Art & Art History courses. Blythe noted that in WRA courses, design is always grounded in rhetoric – who is the audience; how can the problem be solved; which design will best persuade. It is focused on audience, purpose, context and is usually not focused on aesthetics. Suggested word change: “visual and digital rhetoric.”

It was noted that in Item 13 that the course is selective for PW majors not in the Communities and Cultures track, but that it is required for those in the Communities and Culture track. Suggested additional wording: WRA 444 remains on the books.

APPROVED CONDITIONALLY Pending confirmation that a program change is not needed

WRA 425 Advanced Multimedia Writing
Item 10 suggested word change: “visual and digital rhetoric.”
APPROVED with friendly amendments

- **Change in Courses**

WRA 355 Writing for Publication Workshop

In answer to a question about WRA 355 being offered only in summer, Blythe noted that it is an online course which will only be offered in the summer.

APPROVED with friendly amendments

WRA 360 Visual Rhetoric

APPROVED with friendly amendments

- **Course deletion**

WRA 417 Multimedia Writing

APPROVED

7. Other Business

* Curricular requests can be viewed at <https://www.reg.msu.edu/forms/formsmenu.asp> “Academic Programs” and “COURSES.” If you have difficulty accessing any of the information, please contact Theresa Walker (walkerth@msu.edu) to request hard copies.

Reviewed by Swenson and Rauscher.