

Minutes
USD Core Curriculum Committee Meeting
November 15, 2013

Attendance: Tom Dalton (Recorder), Jennifer Gorsky, Cecily Heisser, Carole Huston (Ex-officio), Kathleen Kramer, Julia Medina, Atreyee Phukan (Chair), and Michael Wagner

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

1. The committee approved the October 18, 2013 meeting minutes.
2. The committee discussed a proposed "W" designation for Neur 410.
 - a. The committee is concerned that the learning outcomes on the syllabus do not adequately reflect writing components within the course.
 - b. The committee is concerned that the syllabus does not adequately describe a process-oriented approach to writing instruction (i.e., how is feedback provided by the instructor through an iterative process.)
 - c. The committee would like to see the syllabus more fully explain to students how the writing objectives will occur.
 - d. The committee believes, however, that the course substantially complies with most of the important requirements of a "W" course.
 - e. The committee approved Neur 490 as a "W" course pending modification of the syllabus as described above by a vote of 7 for, 0 opposed, and no abstentions.
3. The committee discussed a proposal to designate ARTH 360 as a "D" course.
 - a. The committee believes that the terms requiring students to "understand" and "know" certain things within the learning objectives are vague and difficult to measure. However, this issue will likely be addressed through the new core curriculum requirements and does not want to pursue the issue further.
 - b. The committee does not see where at least 30 percent of the course content is directed at U.S. diversity issues. The content seems to be more internationally focused. The committee would like clarification on this issue and how the course in general aligns with U.S. diversity.
 - c. The committee would like clarification on how the course syllabus outcomes 1 and 2 contribute to the approval form diversity outcome 3 (which is required of all diversity courses).
 - d. The "D" designation was disapproved by a vote of 0 for, 7 opposed, and no abstentions.
4. The committee discussed the order of approval for core courses and believes that the Core Curriculum Committee should approve a course before the Arts & Sciences Undergraduate Curriculum Committee approves the course. The Undergraduate Curriculum Committee apparently also agrees with this order of approval. Jennifer Gorsky who is also on the Arts & Sciences Undergraduate Curriculum Committee will monitor proposals with that committee in order to promote the agreed upon order of approval.
5. The committee agreed to table discussion of PS 150 until the committee sees a written proposal. At this meeting the committee only has the syllabus for the course.
6. The committee discussed a proposal to approve PS 495 as a "W" course.
 - a. The committee is unclear how a writing component is effective within creative projects as described in the syllabus.
 - b. The committee is concerned that the learning outcomes are vague as to the writing component of the course.
 - c. The committee recognizes, however, the strong, and extensive writing requirement within the course and the multiple iterations required of students for writing assignments and that the course substantially complies with most of the important requirements of a "W" course.
 - d. The committee approved PS 495 as a "W" course pending clarification of the issues stated above by a vote of 7 for, 0 opposed, and no abstentions.

7. The committee discussed a request by a professor to allow a student who had completed a course through Semester-at-Sea to count the course as a "D" course. The committee believes approval is not appropriate because approval must be granted in advance of students taking the course (as is required of all USD "D" courses.)
8. The meeting adjourned at 11:25.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Dalton