ASCC 4/29/16

385 Bricker Hall 8:30-10:30am

Approved Minutes

ATTENDEES: Aski, Bitters, Burry, Craigmile, Daly, Fink, Friedman, Haddad, Hawkins, Heckler, Heysel, Hogle, Holding, Horn, Jenkins, Krissek, Lam, Li, Nini, Oldroyd, Roup, Ruiz, Shank, Vaessin, Vankeerbergen

AGENDA:

1. Approval of 4-15-16 minutes
   * Krissek, Nini, approved (1 abstention)
2. Science and Technology Studies Minor (new) (guests: Professors Barry Shank & David Horn)
   * A&H Panel Chair, Janice Aski, presented the cover letter.
   * The minor is limited to 9 credit hours from one department as referenced on the minor advising sheet.
   * List of elective course options
     + Could contact science departments that may have courses in this field.
     + It is not required to go through the approval process in order to add additional courses to the list of electives.
     + If students take a course that they believe is applicable, it can be counted by the advisors as an elective even if it is not on the list of elective courses.
   * Two required courses, CS 2340 and CS 2341, have exceeded capacity.
     + To address this, the department plans to hire additional faculty to teach these courses.
     + It is possible to offer more sections.
     + Engineering students are required to take CS 2341. This is a large enrollment course with several TAs. With the number of TAs, it is possible to increase the size of the course as long as there are large enough rooms.
     + Suggestion: provide summer offerings and communicate this opportunity to other colleges.
   * **Panel Chair letter, Vaessin, unanimously approved**
3. Screenwriting Minor (new) (guest: Professor Ryan Friedman)
   * A&H Panel Chair, Janice Aski, presented the cover letter.
   * A concern was raised by the Panel regarding two categories of the minor that only have one course available for each category. As a result, the courses would have to be offered frequently. The Film Studies committee discussed this concern and determined that they could make it work and would pay attention to any issues raised based on what advisors are seeing when students are navigating the requirements.
   * Committee member: are there course-capacity concerns?
     + This would not bring an entirely new population of students but rather provide more options to the same pool of students, thus not raising capacity concerns.
   * Committee member: what other institutions offer this minor and has the department considered this as a major?
     + May consider a major in the future but currently not enough curriculum for an entire major.
     + The department is not aware of other programs that are strictly screenwriting.
   * The unit is anticipating an enrollment of approximately 30 students in the minor based on how many students are majoring in Film Studies and listing Screenwriting as their focus area and students enrolled in upper-level screenwriting courses not in the major.
   * There will be very little, if any, switching between the Film Studies minor and the Screenwriting minor as they are very different.
   * Suggestion: state the prerequisites on the minor advising sheets so students are aware of the courses they will need to take.
   * Suggestion: provide a list of ways to declare the minor.
     + Many students realize at the end of their undergrad career that they are close to fulfilling the requirements of a minor.
       - May want to clarify that it is possible for students to declare the minor at the end of their undergraduate career but it is highly encouraged that students declare it earlier.
     + If this is a very successful minor then it is even more important that students actually follow the application process.
   * **Panel Chair letter, Craigmile, unanimously approved**
4. Design Thinking Minor (new; formerly track 1 of Design Minor) & Design Foundations Minor (revision; formerly track 2 of Design Minor)
   * A&H Panel Chair, Janice Aski, presented the cover letter.
   * Two tracks are becoming two distinct minors.
   * Advising sheet of Design Foundations refers to “track 2” and should be removed.
   * Design Thinking minor is likely to attract students outside of Design. There are currently Business and Engineering students in the minor.
   * There are no concerns in the department regarding capacity.
   * **Panel Chair letter, Vaessin, approved (1 abstention)**
5. Revision to BA Romance Studies
   * A&H Panel Chair, Janice Aski, presented the cover letter.
   * Many of the prerequisites count in the GE and many students test out of the prerequisites. So far, all students have been able to complete the program within four years.
   * Romanian is not a primary language but it is included and addressed in the original full proposal.
   * **Panel Chair letter, Burry, approved (1 abstention)**
6. Panel updates
   * A&H
     + Art 3009 approved with contingency
     + Art 4009 approved with contingency
     + ASC 2798.05 approved with contingency
     + “France Beyond Borders” approved
     + History 2710 approved
     + History 3670 approved
     + Reviewing Freshman Seminar proposals
       - A letter of support from the Chair is important when the instructor is not a tenure-track faculty member.
       - Courses should offer an introduction to frontier areas of scholarly pursuit.
       - The courses should be discussion focused.
       - Minimum enrollment is 12 with a maximum enrollment of 18.
       - The instructor can elect to make the course s/u or graded.
   * NMS
     + Astronomy 1101 approved
     + Biology 2367 approved the course but did not approve for the GE Natural Science category.
     + Entomology 2101 approved with contingency
     + Freshman seminars
       - “The Biology of Sex” approved
       - “You are Here: Finding our Place in the Universe” approved
   * SBS
     + Freshman Seminar “Noise-Induced Hearing Loss” approved .
   * Honors
     + The Panel did not meet. Honors courses are not being submitted likely due to the push for larger enrollments.
       - The number of students in the Honors program is decreasing.
       - Courses are being cancelled because of low enrollments and it’s expensive for departments to offer these courses with such low enrollments.
       - The majority of proposals that have been submitted this year have been honors embedded courses.
       - It would be beneficial for Chairs and departments to be aware of the cost of Honors courses.
       - There may be a misalignment with where the demand is for honors courses and where the honors courses are actually being offered.
       - It is sometimes easier for students to take non-honors version of courses based on scheduling.
       - There are incentives for creating other types of high impact practices like Service Learning and Freshman Seminars. Honors courses should be part of that group of courses receiving support.
       - Honors program could rethink the existing honors courses to enhance them.
         * Engineering recently revamped their honors courses to improve their Honors program.
       - One reason why honors courses are not taken as often may be because of structural changes. In some cases, students have been encouraged to take 3000 and 4000 level courses rather than 1000 and 2000 level honors courses.
7. Steve Fink and Meg Daily updates
   * Restructuring of ASCC
     + Adding a second A&H Panel.
     + There will no longer be an Honors Panel for ASCC but there will be communication between the ASC Honors Committee and ASCC.
   * An email was sent at the beginning of the year to curricular contacts about the curricular approval process. A follow-up email will be sent out and will include the number of courses and programs reviewed, information about distance learning course proposals and challenges, and additional highlights.