**Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee**

Approved Minutes

Friday, December 1st, 2023 9:00AM – 11:00AM

156 University Hall

**Attendees:** Bitters, Chamberlain, Dugdale, Fredal, Hamilton, Hedgecoth, Hewitt, Hilty, Holroyd, Jenkins, Lee, Martin, Nagar, Nathanson, Neff, Ottesen, Podalsky, Pradhan, Staley, Steele, Vaessin, Vankeerbergen, Xiao, Wang

1. Approval of 11/17/2023 Minutes
   * **Tabled**
2. Subcommittee Updates
   * Arts and Humanities 1
     + History 3675 – approved
     + History 4005 – approved
     + History 4475 – approved
     + History 4525 – approved
     + Russian 3480.01 – approved with contingency
     + Russian 3480.99 – approved with contingency
   * Arts and Humanities 2
     + N/A
   * Natural and Mathematical Sciences
     + N/A
   * Social and Behavioral Sciences
     + N/A
   * Race, Ethnicity and Gender Diversity
     + N/A
   * Themes 1
     + Classics 3700 – approved with contingency
     + History of Art 4798.03 – approved with contingency
   * Themes 2
     + N/A
3. Informational Item – ASC Honors (A. Martin)
   * Martin: The Honors program, as part of the revision submitted that happened in conjunction with the new General Education program, now requires the completion of an Honors project, which must be carried out and defended by the end of a student’s fourth year. The change that is being made now seeks to clarify the number of credit hours that a student must take to complete this project. The language has been modified to read that a student must take 6 credit hours over the course of at least two semester and can include various types of projects, such as service-learning, research, study abroad, etc. This change was approved by the Honors faculty committee.
4. Informational Item – Liberal Arts BA (A. Martin)
   * Martin: To give some context to this informational item, the university and the college have been seeking ways to generate credit hours. One population of students that we have been struggling to capture are those who leave the college or the university without completing their degrees. The thought is, if we can encourage those students to come back and finish their degrees, we can tap into this unutilized revenue stream. ASC’s data team has run the numbers, and it is clear that we have a fair number of students who have, for example, 30 credit hours remaining in their degree programs but no clear pathway to finish their original degree. Therefore, we are in the very early stages of developing a BA in Liberal Arts that would be offered to students who return in order to give them an opportunity to earn a degree from ASC. If you or your colleagues are interested in being part of the committee that will be working on this, please reach out to me.
   * Committee Member question: What would stop our currently enrolled students who don’t feel like they can finish their degrees from enrolling within this program? I worry that we could cannibalize our own student enrollments with this degree program and pull students out of our existing major programs.
     + Martin: Again, this would only be available to students who leave and come back. If a student would like to develop a flexible degree program, we currently offer the individual study program that, essentially, allows students to design their own degree program if that is something they are interested in doing.
   * Committee Member comment: I am very much in support of this idea, as it seems to be aiming to also solve an equity issue within higher education and would be a huge benefit to students.
5. Dual Degree, Double Majors, and the New General Education (M. E. Jenkins)
   * Jenkins: Under the current Legacy General Education rules, students that are pursuing multiple degrees must earn an additional 30 credit hours beyond the 121 required for a single degree. Of these 30 credit hours, 18 must be upper-division hours and the General Education requirements for each degree program must be fulfilled. Additionally, and this is the part that is now causing the problem that needs to be resolved, no coursework is permitted to overlap between the majors and the General Education program (when a student has only one major, they cannot cross General Education courses with their major courses). Under the new General Education program, however, it has been determined that there is some level of overlap allowed between the GEN Theme courses and the major, given that students may overlap one course from each of their Themes. The philosophy in the past has been that if you are earning two degrees, then those two degrees should be able to stand alone and apart from each other. The decision on how much overlap should be allowed is a faculty decision and that is why this question is being brought to this body’s attention for a decision.
   * Committee Member question: Are there any current examples of where this is already a problem?
     + Jenkins: Students are asking their advisors as they plan out their degrees, and advisors are now asking me. Our advisors are used to working under a model where you can overlap, if a student is working on one degree with a double major, as long as each major has 18 unique credit hours some overlap with the General Education is permissible. However, when students are working on a dual degree, no overlap is permitted, so the question is coming up more and more as students under the new General Education program are planning their degrees.
   * Committee Member question: Is the question we are being asked to consider whether to maintain the minimum of 18 unique credit hours in a double major?
     + Jenkins: Partially. However, currently, no GEN Foundation courses can count in the major, as is the policy set by the Office of Academic Affairs, and only one GEN Themes course per Theme can count within a major. The maximum overlap with a single major, or one degree with two majors, is 8 credit hours crossing between the General Education and the major. If a student has more than one degree, it is up to the faculty to determine if there should be any overlap allowed between the General Education and the majors, and, if any, how much. Currently, for students with two majors and one degree, advisors are assuming that the legacy 18 unique credit hour rule still applies.
   * Committee Member question: Would allowing overlap between the GEN Foundations and the major for a dual degree or a double major be helpful for our students?
     + Jenkins: It could reduce the number of courses that some of our Social and Behavioral Sciences and Arts and Humanities students would need to take to complete a double major or a dual degree, but not for students in programs within the Natural and Mathematical Sciences.
     + Committee Member comment: The idea of allowing one Themes course per Theme to cross with a major was a compromise because the realignment of the credit hours within the General Education, (which now places an emphasis on the progression from lower-level Foundations courses to upper-level/Theme courses rather than an emphasis on multiple courses in a subject area), would be difficult for Natural and Mathematical Sciences students. However, in practice, this compromise does not help because the Natural and Mathematical Science units are having difficulties creating Themes courses that are both accessible for the General Education audience but could also count in that unit’s major(s) without diluting the rigor of the program.
   * Committee Member question: Would allowing some overlap between the GEN Themes actually help our students that are completing a dual degree?
     + Jenkins: Allowing overlap between the major and the GEN Themes will be credit neutral for our students in the Arts and Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences, for the most part. However, it will not help the students with degrees in the Natural and Mathematical Sciences because of how the new General Education program was shrunk. These students still have ample prerequisite courses that they must complete regardless, and these prerequisites now have no categories they can fulfill.
   * Committee Member comment: The reason for the creation of the 18 unique hours rule was to eliminate the possibility of a student creating their General Education based on a major or extracting an entire major from the General Education program.
   * Committee Member comment: As the undergraduate student representative, I feel that the integrity of the General Education is important, as the point of the General Education is to compel students to take coursework outside of their major. Even though crossing courses would assist students in completing degree programs with fewer courses, this would compromise the goals of a liberal arts education.
   * Committee Member question: What have the other colleges decided to do?
     + Jenkins: Most of the other colleges do not see dual degrees to the level that we do since most of their degrees are tagged degrees. This issue has not been raised in the advisor administrative group that I am a member of, but our advisors have been raising this question.
   * Committee Member question: Does this need to be decided today? Would it be possible to come up with some scenarios or examples to help us better understand the issues at play here?
     + Jenkins: No, this does not need to be decided at this meeting. We can reconvene and reexamine this issue during the Spring semester, and I will come back with some more concrete examples and scenarios that may help you all come to a logical decision.