**Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee**

Approved Minutes

Friday, February 16th, 2024 9:00AM – 11:00AM

University 156

**Attendees:** Bowerman, Chamberlain, Dugdale, Hamilton, Harrill, Hewitt, Hilty, Holroyd, Jenkins, Lee, Martin, Nagar, Nathanson, Neff, Ottesen, Podalsky, Pradhan, Staley, Steele, Vankeerbergen

1. Informational Item: Expansion of the combined BA/MA program in History
   * Ottesen: The combined BA/MA program in History has been expanded to include all subfields, instead of only the Public History subfield.
2. Revision to the Master of Arts in History (Guests: B. Harrill and A. Bowerman)
   * Arts and Humanities Subcommittee 2 Letter: The Arts and Humanities 2 Subcommittee reviewed a proposal to revise the History MA program. This revision includes opening up the MA program to be a “direct-admit” program, removing History 7905 as a required course, changing the requirement from two 7000-level seminars and one 8000-level seminar to four 7000-level seminars, and require 15 credit hours of electives, some of which may be taken at the 5000-level. Additionally, the department is requesting to allow 6 hours of 6193 and 7193 count towards the program, 6 hours of 6999 to count towards the program, and only require foreign language proficiency in certain subfields. The Arts and Humanities 2 Subcommittee unanimously approved the proposal and advances the request to the full Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee with a motion to approve.
   * Committee Member question: Why did you remove the 8000-level coursework from the program?
     + Harrill: Our graduate program has undergone several changes over the past decade or so, and we are only able to offer one or two of the 8000-level seminars per semester. Students are unable to easily complete this requirement, and in addition, our faculty would like to keep the 8000-level seminars as Ph.D.-level courses.
   * Committee Member question: Why was the foreign language requirement dropped?
     + Harrill: To clarify, it will still be required for certain subfields of the program. However, we stopped requiring this for all students because the Graduate School has dropped this requirement, and we are aligning our policies with them.
   * Arts and Humanities 2 Letter, Hewitt, **unanimously approved**
3. Approval of 02/02/2024 Minutes
   * Hamilton, Nagar, **unanimously approved**
4. Subcommittee Updates
   * Arts and Humanities 1
     + Arabic 1101.02 – approved with contingency
     + Arabic 1102.02 - approved with contingency
     + Arabic 1103.02 – approved with contingency
     + Arabic 2104.02 – approved with contingency
     + Classics 2206 – approved with contingency
     + ARTEDUC 5681 – approved
     + German 3250.02 – approved
     + MRS 3211 – approved
   * Arts and Humanities 2
     + History 2270 – approved with contingency
     + History 3642 – approved with contingency
     + History 7901 – approved
   * Natural and Mathematical Sciences
     + Earth Sciences 1101 – approved with contingency
     + Microbiology 4145 – approved with contingency
   * Social and Behavioral Sciences
     + Anthropology 3504 – approved with contingency
     + Anthropology 5685.02 – approved with contingency
     + Anthropology 5685.03 - approved with contingency
     + Anthropology 5685.04 – approved with contingency
     + ASC 3120 – approved with contingency
     + Economics 8877 – approved with contingency
     + WGSS 2900 – approved
   * Race, Ethnicity and Gender Diversity
     + N/A
   * Themes I
     + N/A
   * Themes II
     + Educational Studies: Learning Technologies 3315 – approved with contingency
     + Public Affairs 3220 – approved with contingency
     + Turkish 3797 – approved
5. Double Majors and the New General Education (M. E. Jenkins)
   * Jenkins: Today, I’d like for us to focus our conversation specifically on overlap between double majors and GEN program. As a reminder, under the legacy General Education (GEL) program, if a student is completing two or more major programs, the College has allowed for some overlap between majors and/or between major and the General Education. Each major department must approve of the overlap, and there must be 18 unique (non-overlapping) credit hours . Additionally, both majors must be complete at the time of graduation and 39 upper-division hours are needed. Finally, tagged degrees are ineligible for a double major.   
       
     As we discussed at one of our previous meetings, this conversation is taking place because our academic advisors are being proactive and asking the questions that they know they will be fielding from students in the near future, especially as more and more students near degree completion under the new General Education (GEN) program. Last time, we also discussed dual degrees, but it will be more productive to have these discussions separately and so we can have that conversation at a different time
   * Jenkins: The question that we need to consider is that if students are completing two or more major programs, should we allow overlap between those programs and the GEN? If we believe that we should, then we would need to make a request to the Council on Academic Affairs to allow this overlap. As a reminder, students may overlap one course from each of their two Theme categories with their major program.
   * Committee Member comment: To clarify, is the question we are being asked to consider whether we want to ask for an exemption for some of the GEN: Foundations to be able to be overlapped for students completing two or more major programs? If this is the case, from what I can recall from last time, we were discussing whether this would be a benefit to our students. Unfortunately, for our students majoring in the Natural and Mathematical Sciences, this does not appear to be incredibly impactful, as most of their coursework is prerequisite coursework that no longer has a home within the General Education, with the reduction of the Natural Sciences Foundations category.
     + Committee Member comment: Yes, that is the question. However, I would argue that even by reducing the number of courses that students majoring in the sciences need to complete by only one or two, that could prove incredibly beneficial for their tight schedule. As a faculty member in the sciences, I think this might have a significant impact.
   * Committee Member question: If we ask for an exemption for Arts and Sciences to the new General Education, would this not open the door for the other Colleges across campus to ask for exemptions as well? I worry that this would destroy the philosophy of the GEN program, specifically that the university be united under a single General Education program that is highly visible to students. When the General Education program was redesigned, the idea was that students would be able to clearly articulate what they took as part of their General Education, and that it would allow them to easily transfer their General Education programs across the colleges should they transfer to a different college.
     + Jenkins: While this certainly is a concern, I would like to point out that an exemption for double majors would not be terribly impactful for most of the other colleges, as they mostly award tagged degrees, which are ineligible for second majors.
     + Committee Member comment: While this may be true, I could envision a future where the other colleges make an argument that since ASC was granted an exemption, they should also be granted their own exemption to the GEN rules, which may not be constrained to double majors. This could potentially erode the philosophy of the new General Education and we would end up back where we started with individual General Education programs for each of the colleges.
   * Committee Member question: Given the potential drawbacks of asking for this exemption, is this a problem currently? Do we know how many students this exemption would truly impact?
     + Jenkins: Currently, I do not have that data available. Advisors have asked the question to pre-empt student questions.
     + Committee Member question: Would it be possible to gather this data and then report back in the future when it’s available? I believe it would be much more impactful if we made this decision based on data and what we are seeing, rather than predictions.
     + Jenkins: I believe that advisors would be happy to share their experiences advising students completing double or multiple majors under the GEN and I can compile these conversations.
   * The Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee has decided to table this conversation until data can be collected on the need for asking for an exemption for overlap between course work in the GEN program and double or multiple major programs. Mary Ellen Jenkins, Assistant Dean for Academic Advising, will collect data from ASC Advisors to help determine for what areas of the college this exemption may be helpful.