**Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee**

Approved Minutes

Friday, March 1st, 2024 9:10AM – 11:00AM

University 156

**Attendees:** Bitters, Dugdale, Hamilton, Hedgecoth, Hilty, Jenkins, Jones, Lee, Martin, Neff, Ottesen, Paulsen, Podalsky, Staley, Steele, Vaessin, Vankeerbergen, Wang, Xiao

1. New Graduate Certificate in Contemporary Art and Curatorial Studies (Type 3B) (Guest: K. Paulsen)
   * Arts and Humanities 1 Subcommittee Letter: The Arts and Humanities 1 Subcommittee reviewed a new proposal to create a new, type 3B graduate-level certificate in Contemporary Art and Curatorial Studies from the Department of History of Art. In 2018, the department launched an MA degree in Contemporary Art and Curatorial Practices, which only ran briefly before the COVID-19 pandemic shut down museums. This gave the department time to rethink whether an MA program was the best fit for this curriculum. The department opted to create a certificate program as a replacement. The certificate will allow the department to recruit top candidates to their Ph.D. program and help formalize their collaborations with local arts institutions. Completion of the certificate will require a minimum of 14 credit hours, including: 1) two required courses (HISTART 7015 & 7190) and two electives. The Arts and Humanities 1 Subcommittee unanimously approved the request and advances the proposal to the full Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee with a motion to approve.
   * Committee Member question: I could see this program being of interest to individuals outside of the university. Has the department given any thought to offering this program as a standalone certificate program?
     + Paulsen: We did, but decided an embedded program was a better fit for the scale of the certificate. Working professionals will want to complete this program within one year, and our current staffing plan would not allow that. Additionally, setting up the collaborations between local art institutions and our curriculum takes about two years from start-to-finish.
   * Committee Member question: When considering credentials, is there a field-specific requirement to have completed a Ph.D. program within History of Art?
     + Paulsen: While it is not a requirement to have a terminal degree in History of Art, it is becoming a field standard for museum curators and directors to have a Ph.D to support the specialized types of writing and research required in these positions. Additionally, smaller colleges and liberal arts institutions are seeking individuals qualified to teach coursework within curatorial practices, and this certificate will help our graduates stand out as they enter the job market.
   * Committee Member question: Will the department deactivate the MA program?
     + Paulsen: We are pausing the MA program but not yet formally deactivating it. While I do not believe we will offer the MA program again in the future, it is a possibility. One of the reasons we have shifted the program is that the department is grappling with the ethical concerns surrounding offering an unfunded MA program, when students typically need a terminal degree to obtain the positions they seek.
   * Arts and Humanities 1 Letter, Hamilton, **unanimously approved**
2. Subcommittee Updates
   * Arts and Humanities 1
     + Art 3011 – approved with contingency
     + Art 3204 – approved with contingency
     + Ethnic Studies 3562 – approved
     + Ethnic Studies 5890 – approved with contingency
     + History of Art 3562 – approved
     + Russian 1102.02 – approved with contingency
     + Russian 1201 – approved with contingency
     + Russian 1202 – approved with contingency
     + Russian 1203 – approved with contingency
     + Russian 1205 – approved with contingency
   * Arts and Humanities 2
     + ASL 3104 – approved with contingency
     + ASL 3450 0 approved with contingency
     + ASL 4250 – approved with contingency
     + ASL 4350 – approved with contingency
   * Natural and Mathematical Sciences
     + Molecular Genetics 3011 – approved with contingency
     + Physics 2100 – approved with contingency
   * Social and Behavioral Sciences
     + Anthropology 3360 – approved with contingency
     + Anthropology 5525 – approved with contingency
   * Race, Ethnicity and Gender Diversity
     + Consumer Sciences: Fashion & Retail Studies 2372 – approved with contingency
     + History 3106 – approved
     + History of Art 2003 – approved with contingency
     + WGSS 2900 – approved with contingency
   * Themes I
     + Comparative Studies 3130H – approved
     + EEOB 2260 – approved
     + MRS 3211 – approved with contingency
     + Theatre 3130H – approved
   * Themes II
     + AGSYSMT 3586 – approved with contingency
     + HCS 3586 – approved with contingency
     + History 3281 – approved
     + Sociology 2368 – approved
     + Sociology 3597.02 – approved with contingency
3. Informational Item: Digital Flagship (J. Ottesen)
   * Ottesen: This is an announcement that the Digital Flagship program has officially ended as of the beginning of calendar year 2024. More information can be found on the [OTDI Digital Flagship website.](https://it.osu.edu/digital-flagship)
4. Transfer-friendly Bachelor’s Degree Program (A. Martin)
   * Martin: The College is currently exploring creating a “transfer-friendly” bachelor’s degree program aimed at students returning to the university after exiting without completing their degree program. David Horn, Dean of Arts and Sciences, would like to receive the faculty’s input on whether this program should be developed as a tagged degree. That process takes longer to approve through the Ohio Department of Higher Education. The College of Arts and Sciences rarely offers these programs and they are typically accompanied by requirements from an outside accrediting body, which this degree does not have. However, it may be beneficial to graduates to distinguish this program from other degrees.
   * Committee Member question: Can you clarify what you mean when you say that this program will not have an outside accrediting body?
     + Martin: Tagged degrees such as most of the degrees offered by our School of Music or the Department of Design typically have an outside accrediting body associated. We would structure our advertising of the degree to make it clear that this degree does not have such an accrediting body and is appropriate for the population of students that we are hoping to capture.
   * Committee Member comment: If we decide to not create this program as a tagged degree, we should likely offer both a BS and a BA degree option, especially for those who may have already completed the requirements to receive the BS.
     + Jenkins: As a reminder to everyone, diplomas at the university are awarded by the individual college and, therefore, a student’s individual major does not appear on their diploma. The exception to this is the tagged degrees, for which the specific name of the tagged degree appears on the diploma: for example, Bachelor’s of Science in Design for our BSD program.
   * Committee Member question: Is there a substantial difference between the tagged degree and the BA or BS? Are students asking for or recognize this distinction?
     + Martin: Currently, OSU Online is conducting market research regarding this. One point to consider is that we may want to offer concentrations in various areas, such as the Arts and Humanities, Natural and Mathematical Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences, World Languages, etc., to provide structure and to help make this program more appealing to students.
     + Committee Member comment: If the difference is only for what students see on their diploma, I personally do not see why this is significant enough to warrant going through the additional hurdles.
     + Committee Member comment: From the advising perspective, students oftentimes do not understand the difference between a simple BA or BS and a tagged degree, and it does not appear to be something that they seek out.
   * Martin: It appears that the sentiment from this body is that the idea of creating this degree as a tagged degree is not one we’d like to pursue as a college. I’ll pass along this information to David and the committee that will be discussing the development of this program.
5. Religious Accommodations Statement and Syllabus Design Discussion (Guest: N. Jones)
   * Ottesen: The Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee has had several conversations surrounding how we define a syllabus and what these documents communicate to our students. One set of discussions is whether a link to a centralized repository of standardized syllabus statements would be desirable. However, at this time, we have not decided to move towards this policy, as we know that having these policies visible to students can be helpful when a student requires them the most. Additionally, syllabi are continuing to evolve in our shifting political climate. The newly required religious accommodations statement, being codified in the Ohio Revised Code, is an example of the shifting climate. It was brought to our attention that the statement was recently updated, which reignited the conversation about whether a link to the statement is sufficient to satisfy the requirement as it is written within the Ohio Revised Code.
   * Jones: The Office of Legal Affairs does not consider that providing a link to the religious accommodations statement will be insufficient to meet the requirements set out in the Ohio Revised Code. The Office of Undergraduate Education provides a centralized repository of statements, including statements for all our regional campuses, to ensure everyone across our large institution has access to the same information. The Office of Undergraduate Education is fully committed to the idea that the faculty, and by extension our departments, own the curriculum, and we do not mandate that either full statements or links be included in syllabi. That is up to each college to decide.
   * Jones: Given the concerns being raised by ASC, I will seek input from the Office of Legal Affairs as to whether a link to the religious accommodations statement will be sufficient to meet the requirements set out in the Ohio Revised Code.
     + Post-Meeting Addendum: In a follow-up conversation after this meeting, Norman Jones shared that the Office of Legal Affairs believes that the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee’s concerns regarding linking to this policy held merit, and therefore, the Office of Undergraduate Education will now be recommending (but not mandating) that the religious accommodations statement be provided, in full, within all course syllabi across the colleges.
   * Ottesen: Is there any opportunity for us to provide feedback on the wording on the statement? One of our concerns is that the revised statement, in our view, is poorly constructed, and not to the quality which we would expect for an official policy statement. Another of our concerns is the considerable length of the statement.
   * Jones: I am certain that the Office of Legal Affairs would be open to feedback regarding the statement, especially the length of the statement. This statement was reviewed by several teams prior to being approved, and so language may have been added as it went through the review process.
   * Committee Member question: Are there any additional avenues for students to be updated on the newest policies besides these syllabi statements being updated?
     + Jones: The statements on our syllabi are expected to communicate the most up-to-date policies to students.
     + Committee Member comment: As the undergraduate representative, I was not aware of the religious accommodations policy. I learned about this policy from our discussions in this committee, not from my instructors. This information is not being disseminated to students in any cohesive fashion outside of the syllabus.
   * Committee Member comment: When I joined the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee, one of the responsibilities communicated to me was utilizing this review process as an opportunity to inform faculty, departments and units of new policies and statements.
   * Committee Member comment: One of the complexities of being such a large institution is that there is a significant difference between the various colleges and schools that teach undergraduate students. I believe we need to think carefully about what we, as a university, are presenting to our faculty across the colleges and schools teaching undergraduates.
     + Jones: This is a fundamental, core tension that we have, being such a large institution. Our units have significant local control and, therefore, need to coordinate with each other. However, our sheer size oftentimes makes this cross-college, and sometimes even cross-department, communication difficult. I have heard from students that, for example, they become acquainted with a standard that one unit has for their CarmenCanvas course sites but become frustrated when the materials are presented in a different way in a course from another unit. For students, they feel they are taking a course at Ohio State, and not a course within the College of Arts and Sciences or the College of Engineering.
   * Ottesen: This has been a very worthwhile and fruitful discussion. However, what this body needs to decide is whether we are going to shift our required religious accommodations statement to the new statement on the Undergraduate Education website. Additionally, we must decide if we are going to provide feedback to the Office of Legal Affairs or ask them to revise the statement.
     + Committee Member comment: Additionally, I believe that providing hyperlinks to the various statements is not sufficient for ASC standards. All statements should be fully incorporated within course syllabi, and not simply linked to within syllabi.
     + Committee Member comment: I believe we should update our statement to the newest statement available, but I do agree that our colleagues will be frustrated with the new statement. I believe we should ask the Office of Legal Affairs to revise this statement.
   * The Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee will update the College’s required religious accommodations statement to the new statement, as updated on the Office of Undergraduate Education’s website. They also have decided that all of the required statements shall appear on syllabi, and that hyperlinks to the statements are not sufficient to fulfill this requirement. Additionally, they will work to provide feedback on the revised statement. Finally, they authorize the Arts and Sciences Curriculum and Assessment Services to update the required and recommended syllabus statements as they are updated by their respective offices. If in the future any updates will happen, they will be shared as an informational item at the next full meeting of the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee by the committee chair.
   * Vaessin, Podalsky, **unanimously approved**