

FROM: Terry Gustafson
SENT: Mon 4/20/2009 9:42 AM
RE: International Studies H230 non-concurrence

All,

There are a couple of points that require some clarification at this point.

1. The point at which concurrence is sought was determined by the Associate Deans at a meeting earlier this year, so if there is a problem from your perspective about the timing for when concurrence is sought then please make your recommendations to your A-Dean.
2. In general, the point of referring an Honors version of an *existing* course to the college committee (in the case of IS H230 that is the interdisciplinary subcommittee of CCI) is for informational purposes only. This is an existing course; the time for concurrences has long since passed unless the content of the course is being significantly restructured. That is not the case for this course where the course content has not changed, but has been “upgraded” to Honors status and approved by the Honors committee.

We need to be reasonable about what constitutes a legitimate use of non-concurrence. Unless an existing course is undergoing significant course content change I think we are wasting an incredible amount of faculty time and energy on rather trivial matters. In this case, the course has existed for a long time and the Honors version is a logical request. If History would like International Studies to consider 538 as an elective for the IS major, then they should contact the Director of IS. I suspect he would be more than willing to add it to his list of approved courses for the IS major or minor. But we can't turn back the clock on an existing course unless there is evidence of curricular drift. Nor should we be wasting our time on these turf battles at this point. We are one college – Arts and Sciences – and we need to think like that.

I will be forwarding the course to CAA, so if you have any further concerns please contact Randy Smith.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of my comments. I would welcome your constructive feedback.

Terry

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