From: Vankeerbergen, Bernadette
To: Van Beurden, Sarah
Cc: Aski, Janice; Heysel, Garett
Subject: Revised AAAS Graduate Programs (PhD, MA, & Graduate Minor)
Date: Thursday, April 19, 2018 2:18:00 PM
Attachments: image001.png

Dear Sarah,

On Thursday, April 12, the Arts and Humanities 1 Panel of the ASC Curriculum Committee considered a proposal to revised the PhD, MA, and Graduate Minor in AAAS.

The Panel did not take a vote on the proposal but would like the following points addressed first:

- Learning goals:
  - Does the department intend to not differentiate much between MA and PhD learning goals? Four of the five goals are fully identical. Only one is slightly different: MA: "Demonstrate in-depth knowledge and mastery of the relevant sources, methodological approaches, and concepts in their area of study." PhD: "Demonstrate in-depth knowledge and mastery in all areas of concentration through a combination of qualitative and quantitative research, conceptual work, and theoretical reflection."
  - Regarding the latter learning goal, it does not seem possible for PhD students to gain in-depth knowledge and mastery in all 5 areas of concentration since expertise is only expected in one of the 5 areas (see p. 10 & p. 12) and the candidacy exam focuses on one major field and two minor fields (see p. 12).
  - One of the goals is: "Articulate the theoretical and practical intersections between race, gender, class, nationality, ethnicity, and sexuality using a Black Diasporic perspective." The Panel is not clear why the focus is only on a "Black Diasporic perspective." Why can the perspective not also include an African perspective (since students are getting their graduate degree in African American *and African* Studies)?
- For the methodology course that will replace AAAS 7754: Whenever there are two courses listed (Comparative Studies 6390 and 6391; English 6795 and 7895), do both of these need to be taken?
- p. 6: MA: "Students will be encouraged to focus on gaining expertise in one of the five areas of their choice, but there will be no specific course or credit hour requirement attached to the thematic areas."
  - This is somewhat contradicted by the following statement about the MA Comprehensive Examination on p. 8: "All 5 areas of concentration (listed above) should be represented on the reading list." Therefore, the necessity to be knowledgeable about all 5 areas of concentration should be more explicitly stated in the proposal.
  - Furthermore, the panel wonders whether not attaching credit hour requirements to the thematic areas will be helpful to the students. Might it not be more beneficial to provide at least a range of credit hours? Indeed, this would give more guidance/structure to students.
- P. 24: A similar sense of vagueness and lack of structure appears on the MA advising sheet: "Students must take at least 27 credit hours of elective courses guided by their thematic area of research." This statement seems to imply that everyone will do research (and write a thesis), which is not the case. It also does not state that for students choosing the

Comprehensive Exam option, since they will be tested on their knowledge of all 5 areas, they should make sure to take coursework in all 5 areas.

- A similar lack of structure exists for the revised PhD program. P. 10: "Students will be encouraged to focus on gaining expertise in one of the five areas of their choice, but there will be no specific course or credit hour requirement attached to the thematic areas." However, on p. 12, we learn that for the Candidacy Exam, students are examined on their knowledge of one major field and two minor fields. Panel believes that students would benefit from having credit hours (or at least a range of credit hours) attached to what constitutes a major field vs. a minor field.
- It is not stated whether the thematic area selected by a student at the MA level needs to remain the same if the student subsequently pursues the PhD at Ohio State. Or can a student pick up another focus area at the PhD level?
- Pp. 20-21: At the PhD level, it does not seem possible for students to be able to select "Critical Gender and Sexuality Studies" and "Critical Theory" as their major thematic area and complete the necessary number of elective courses. Indeed, these are small themes with only 4 courses in each theme. The problem would be particularly acute if a student has already specialized in that area for his/her MA.
- P. 14: Estimate enrollment going forward is given. Does the estimate of 3-5 students per year encompass both MA and PhD students? How many students are enrolled in these programs currently?
- How can department guarantee that the courses will be offered on a regular basis?
    - For students in the MA: enough courses from all 5 areas of concentration should be offered in any two years.
    - Likewise, students in the PhD program should be able to complete their coursework in two years.

  The Panel would like to see a couple of sample multi-year plans for students completing their MA & PhD at Ohio State with information that the department has the necessary faculty to offer those courses.
- Since PhD and MA are being revised, how will this affect the current assessment plan(s) for these programs? Request to provide (adjusted) assessment plan(s).

Should you have any questions about this feedback, do not hesitate to contact Janice Aski (faculty Chair of the A&H1 Panel; cc'd here), or me.

Please feel free to send a revised proposal to me, and I will then submit it to the A&H1 Panel for approval.

Best,
Bernadette

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