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Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 7:06 AM

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Cc: Bitters, Todd <bitters.4@osu.edu>; Crocetta, Alison <crocetta.1@osu.edu>

Subject: eSports and Gaming program feedback from ASCC

Dear Deb,

I have received specific feedback from several of the members of ASCC on the proposal for three majors within an eSports and Game Studies program. The attached proposal contains some of that feedback, tagged as comments to the part of the proposal where the issue first arises.

I have also attached the advising sheets that ASC Advising edited. There are comments on these, too. The plans address the current GE, with a few notes about how the planned revision might impact the programs.

The revised proposal must include verified plans and a curriculum map. The administrative structure needs to be resolved and an ASC co-director should be identified (s/he can be interim, if necessary). There should be firm and specific plans for the finalization of required courses.

In addition to the specific issues identified on those documents, I want to highlight a few overarching concerns that came though in the discussion:

There is deep concern that key ASC programs were not sufficiently considered or included in the proposed curriculum—notably Art (Art and Technology), but also Communication, Statistics, and possibly others. These units have the expertise and reputation needed to bolster some of the perceived academic weaknesses and also have programs that will be impacted by these new majors and by subsequent certificates and minors.

The benefit of this integrated program is that students have the critical thinking skills in addition to the know-how for application as the industry and their careers evolve. However, the programs feel very light on theory, context, and critical analysis. Issues about ethics, social impacts, etc are

clearly part of the program, but details about this aspect of the program are wanting. This might be ameliorated by identifying the courses that contribute to these program goals via the curriculum map, but the general sense was that the curriculum would be improved by including broader and deeper context about these issues (versus narrower and industry-specific focus).

The fiscal picture for this program is not adequately developed. This is of special concern for ASC faculty in light of the fiscal situation in the college. We know that some of the necessary information is under discussion in the various units involved and wasn't available when the proposal was drafted, but the committee is concerned about the lack of specifics about the source and rationale for the planned hiring of faculty and instructors (why these number of people, what is the necessary disciplinary expertise, etc—see proposal for additional questions). Furthermore, we want to see a breakdown of the administrative costs and the ways in which these will be shared—Arts and Sciences is a minority player in terms of the required classes, but seems to have responsibility for providing and administrative home and advising support? Although this is an ASC degree, the majority of courses in it are outside of ASC (and many students in the program will be enrolling in this rather than existing ASC majors, so might this lead to an actual reduction in ASC enrollments. Who is responsible for the faculty lines and costs, should the program not meet goals for enrollment? Who pays for the physical space (and where will that space BE)? Because this program is intercollegiate and does not tap into existing space or infrastructure there are more questions about these topics than usual.

The potential of this program to attract students is clear. Although the program plans to enroll 80 students (a year?), the demand is likely much higher. Some of the programs from which this degree might attract students have GPA or portfolio requirements, so this might be a compelling “out” for student not able to enroll in those programs. How will demand be managed? A related issue is capacity in existing courses: is there room for the new students in the required classes? In electives? We want to ensure that students have access to the courses and opportunities that the program offers.

One aspect that may not be clear from this voluminous and detailed feedback is that the ASCC members were generally enthusiastic about the idea for such a program! I know that the group appreciated the way you took in the discussion and identified ways that you could refine the program and its membership to incorporate the perspectives you were hearing at ASCC. We want to help you make this program stronger and want to find ways for it to take advantage of the strengths we have in Arts and Sciences so that we can

best serve our students and support this initiative. Please let me know if/how I can help as you revise the proposal.

With regards,

Meg

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