

## MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 9, 2015, MEETING OF THE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

**Location:** Shumaker Research Building 340

**Present:** Simona Bertacco, Changbing Hu, Dwain Pruitt, Christopher Tillquist, Wendy Yoder

**Absent:** Matt Church

**Guests:** Dr. Tad Hughes, Justice Administration; Dr. Ranen Omer-Sherman (Humanities)

The meeting was convened at 12:04 PM.

The minutes of the December 9, 2014, meeting were approved with an amendment to item 214-14F replacing “by” with “about” in the following sentence: “Dr. Simpson was asked about the proposed course prefix SUST.”

### OLD BUSINESS:

**215-14F:** The committee revisited PEAC’s proposal to create PEAC 575, “Independent Study in Peace, Justice, and Conflict Transformation.” At its December 9, 2014, meeting, the committee requested an explanation of PEAC’s request that the course offer variable credit ranging from 1 to 5 credits. Dr. Vandembroucke contacted Dr. Pruitt about this, relating that his proposal was modeled after WGST 591, “Topics in Women’s and Gender Studies—Social Sciences,” which offers a similar range of variable credit. PEAC is requesting this range to allow students to pursue intensive, demanding study opportunities that may include, for example, travel or a significant time commitment. The committee accepts that such a proposal is pedagogically sound, but it requested that the PEAC 575 syllabus establish clear benchmarks for what constitutes a 1-credit independent study, a 2-credit independent study, etc. The committee therefore **DEFERRED** final approval of PEAC 575 pending a revision of the syllabus that establishes how credit will be determined. Dr. Pruitt was asked to communicate this request to Dr. Vandembroucke with the hope that a revision could be submitted quickly so that the course can be entered into the next catalog.

### NEW BUSINESS:

Dr. Pruitt informed the committee that he is soliciting nominations for two Natural Sciences representatives, one to serve as a sabbatical replacement for Dr. Zhang and the other to replace Dr. Rodriguez-Gutierrez.

**01-15S:** The committee **APPROVED** the addition of ANTH 512, “Methods in Skeletal Forensics,” pending two revisions to the syllabus: 1) inclusion of the College-mandated statement informing students that the instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus and 2) a more explicit explanation of the course’s writing requirement (e.g. total number of pages/words required) in the “Course Perspective” section.

**02-15S:** The committee **APPROVED** the inclusion of ANTH 512 as an elective option in the Anthropology with a Track in Natural Sciences (BA) program.

**03-14S:** The committee **APPROVED** the inclusion of ANTH 512 as an elective option in the Anthropology with a Track in Social Science (BA) program.

**04-15S:** The committee **APPROVED** the inclusion of ANTH 512 as an elective option in the Forensic Anthropology minor.

**05-15S:** Dr. Omer-Sherman briefly discussed the Humanities Division's decision to suspend the Jewish Studies minor when it was no longer able to offer Hebrew language classes. After reviewing Jewish Studies programs at Ivy League and U of L peer institutions, the Jewish Studies faculty has determined that the national standard for minor programs does not require language study (even if language study is desirable). Therefore, Jewish Studies is reinstating a revised minor that offers interested students a Jewish Cultural Studies track or a Jewish Language and Culture Track. Discussion with the committee confirmed that these proposed programs can be offered using existing U of L courses. The committee **APPROVED** the revised Jewish Studies minor.

**06-15S:** Dr. Hughes explained Justice Administration's decision to petition to change the minimum-maximum credits offered for JA 799. According to Dr. Hughes, a student entering the doctoral program arrived with several hours of transfer credit. Upon completing the core requirements, s/he has finished all requirements and was forced to take an extra course since the current incarnation of JA 799 only allows students to earn up to 6 credits. The proposed change, then, seeks to give students greater flexibility. Dr. Pruitt noted that other departments (e.g. Chemistry) offer graduate research courses worth as many as 16 credits. Dr. Tillquist suggested that the student might have been able to go into degree candidacy at that moment, which would have been a less expensive option, and recommended that the department investigate whether that was, in fact, an option should such a scenario arise in the future. The committee **APPROVED** changing JA 799's minimum-maximum credits from 1-6 to 1-12.

**07-15S:** After the meeting's official business had been concluded, Dr. Yoder requested that the committee agree to consider a request from the French faculty to make revisions to the French BA program before proposed curricular revisions are due to Dr. Goldstein. Dr. Yoder indicated that she would forward the request to Dr. Pruitt, who would then send it to the committee. The committee will review the materials and vote on the matter electronically.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dwain C. Pruitt, Ph.D.  
Assistant Dean for Curriculum and Governance  
Prepared January 9, 2015

College of Arts and Sciences  
Curriculum Committee  
January 9, 2015  
12:00-1:00 PM  
SRB 340

**AGENDA**

- 1) Approval of Minutes of December 9, 2014, Meeting (forwarded electronically)
- 2) Old Business
  - 215-14F: Addition of PEAC 575
- 3) New Business (attached)
  - 01-15S: Addition of ANTH 512, “Methods in Skeletal Forensics”
  - 02-15S: Change in Anthropology with a Track in Natural Sciences (BA) program to use ANTH 512 as an elective option
  - 03-15S: Change in Anthropology with a Track in Social Science (BA) program to use ANTH 512 as an elective option
  - 04-15S: Change in Forensic Anthropology minor to allow use of ANTH 512 as an elective
  - 05-15S: Revision to Jewish Studies Minor
  - 06-15S: Change to JA 799, “Dissertation Research in Criminal Justice,” to offer the course with variable credit from 1 to 12 credits