

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 18, 2020, MEETING OF THE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

Present: Ray Chastain, Karen Christopher, Matt Church, Dwain Pruitt, Edna Ross, Karl Swinehart, Jake Wildstrom, Li Zeng

Guests: David Brown, Nick Paliewicz, Regina Roebuck, Mark Running

The meeting was convened at 2:00 PM.

The committee approved the August 13, 2020, minutes and the committee moved to its new business.

001-20F: The committee **APPROVED** the Department of Biology's request to remove BIOL 443's WR designation. The course will retain its CUE designation and its enrollment maximum will be increased to 120.

002-20F: The committee **DEFERRED** approval of the addition of PAS 373, "Race and Hip Hop." The committee raised a number of concerns about the included syllabus. Key among them:

- A) **COURSE LEVEL:** Should the course be offered at the 200-level instead of at the 300-level? It might fit within the curriculum better at that level given other course offerings about African-American and African Diaspora music history. Offering it at the 200-level would also address the committee's concern about the limited number of indicated course readings, which seemed low for a 300-level course.
- B) **COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:** The syllabus needs more fully-articulated course goals and objectives that relate to this specific course, not just to the department's stated learning outcomes
- C) **CONCEPTUALIZATION:** The syllabus includes language indicating that it will consider the two racial perspectives on hip hop, that of the black community and that of the white community. The committee argued this conceptualization is too narrow and recommends language that reflects the multiple voices and perspectives that such a course could consider.

003-20F: The committee also **DEFERRED** approval of the addition of PAS 375, "Hip Hop and Black Women's Voices in the Public Sphere," citing concerns similar to those outlined above. The committee particularly focused on the required readings, which seemed to amount to approximately 20 pages per week. The committee also suggested that, since this is a music course, the instructor should provide a list of the music to which students will be listening.

004-20F: The committee **APPROVED** the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences' request to change PSYC 302's prerequisites. Instead of students being required to complete "MATH 111 or higher" as a prerequisite, students may use a grade of C or better earned in any approved QR course.

005-20F: The committee **APPROVED** the Department of Classical and Modern Languages' proposal to suspend the MA in French for five years. There is currently only one inactive student enrolled in the program and French faculty have agreed to allow this individual to complete the program through independent study should he or she return to the program.

006-20F: The committee **APPROVED** the Department of Communication's proposal to offer an accelerated BA/BS-MA degree in Communication. The proposal allows for students to earn up to 9 hours of graduate credit by taking courses chosen from an approved list. This list currently includes courses at the 400-level that will need to be offered at the 500-level.

007-20F: The committee **APPROVED** the Department of Communication's proposed changes to its MA's admissions standards. The department will no longer require the GRE for admission; only students seeking research or teaching assistantships will be required to submit GRE scores. Admission to the program will be based on assessment of student competency in quantitative and qualitative-based courses, demonstrated competency in quantitative and qualitative reasoning, three letters of recommendation, a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher, and two writing samples.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dwain C. Pruitt, Ph.D.
Assistant Dean for Curriculum and Governance
Prepared September 21, 2020

College of Arts and Sciences
Curriculum Committee
September 18, 2020
2:00-2:50 PM

AGENDA

- 1) Approval of Minutes of the August 13, 2020, Meeting
- 2) NEW BUSINESS:
 - 001-20F: Change to BIOL 443 (title change to remove WR designation)
 - 002-20F: Addition of PAS 373, “Race and Hip Hop”
 - 003-20F: Addition of PAS 375, “Hip Hop and Black Women’s Voices in the Public Sphere”
 - 004-20F: Change to PSYC 302 (prerequisite change)
 - 005-20F: Proposal to suspend the MA in French
 - 006-20F: Proposal to offer an accelerated BA/BS-MA in Communication
 - 007-20F: Change to admissions requirements for the MA in Communication