

Meeting of the Curriculum Committee
September 20, 2024
Minutes

Committee: Present: Matt Church, Calvin Coker, Jordan Gabbard, Gregory Hutcheson, Lenore Hoyt, Ryan Luke *Absent:* Aiden Johnson, Dana Seay, Jason Sievers. *Guests:* Mitch Ekert, Joe Grant, Regina Roebuck, Steve Sohn, Kandi Walker

The meeting was convened at 2:00. Calvin noted that his role as Chair now extends to generally running the meeting, as Jason Sievers has a standing conflict for the meeting time.

Participants were welcomed, and Jordan Gabbard was offered an opportunity to speak concerning his role as liaison to the Cardinal Core Committee. As today was the first meaningful meeting of that committee, he indicated there wasn't anything to report.

Announcements were dispatched with little fanfare. Regina indicated that a final shift of multidisciplinary program housing may be taking place based on faculty votes that just occurred in Sociology, but we our records are largely up to date on those shifts.

For new business, we began with Regina's report on Graduation with Academic Accolades.

005-The adjustment would add a new category to the existing Latin Honors and Participation on Honors accolades: With Distinction, and With Highest Distinction. Regina explained that the A&S thesis option, which almost uniformly has higher standards than corresponding practicums and theses housed in departments (specifically in requiring a defense, and an outside committee member, plus higher GPA requirements). Regina indicated there was exceptional interest for the A&S thesis option.

006- COM 352. Kandi Walker indicated this course has been taught in some capacity as a special topics, and this designation was to add it to the permanent rotation. The syllabus was missing boilerplate language, which Kandi indicated would be fixed.

007- ART558. Mitch Ekert explained that components of this class had been taught as special topics courses, but a coherent class specifically focused on non-compositional issues like power and marginality was a necessary addition to their photography curricula. As the catalogue number allows for graduate and undergraduate enrollment, the committee requested a clarification on the differences for graduate students, alongside a grading scale. Mitch indicated that the requested information would be provided.

008-012- Changing to General Studies courses, including a new course. Regina addressed these topics as a sort of batch, justifiably. She began with the low hanging fruit: GEN491, Undergraduate Research, and 401: General Studies Capstone. Regina noted these classes are, in essence, culminating experiences for General Studies designed for students who's home departments did not have a corresponding class option for something like a thesis, and that the instructor of the courses should come from the home department. For program changes, Regina noted that GS was originally conceived of to attract students with partial degree completion, or to

serve as an off ramp for folks at risk of degree failure. The addition of a face-to-face option for the existing online degree components better serves student needs, and also works better with our tuition structure which charges students more for online instruction. Additionally, the program changes supplement that original goal by offering students a more structured path than the personalized major while still allowing, within that path, a multiplicity of options designed to meet student needs. The course changes to GEN 303 and 305 reflect an alteration to the philosophy of those courses. Originally, students took a class at the 200 level which both oriented individuals to the GS degree and offered a “prior learning assessment” to translate work experience into credit. Now, 303 functions as a 3-Credit Hour orientation to GS and 305 is a stand-alone resolution of the prior learning assessment. Questions were raised about staffing, and Elizabeth Cross is currently doing PLAs and working to ensure that it does not fall solely on their shoulders.

By the time guests had exited, only four members remained: Calvin, Greg, Matt, and Lenore. As Lenore had been attending a meeting of the A&S Diversity Committee at the same time, they expressed a desire to abstain from the voting. A conversation was had regarding a quorum, and it was made clear that a.) clarification was needed regarding what constituted a quorum for the committee this year, and b.) even if we had a quorum with Lenore, members expressed hesitation to lock in a vote where a borderline quorum had an abstaining member. As such, voting was tabled until the answer to the above questions was ascertained, with intention to conduct polls via email upon resolution.

The meeting was concluded at 3:06.

Follow up: After determining that a quorum for the committee was five votes, an online poll was circulated concerning each of the items detailed in the agenda. The results of the online poll are reported below.

005- 24F – Graduation with Academic Accolades policy
4 Yay, 0 Nay, 1 Abstention, 3 no response. Result: **PASS**

006- 24F – New Course Proposal: COMM 352: Sports, Media, Culture
4 Yay, 0 Nay, 1 Abstention, 3 no response. Result: **PASS**

007- 27F – New Course Proposal: ART 558: Special Topics in Photography
4 Yay, 0 Nay, 1 Abstention, 3 no response. Result: **PASS**

008- 24F – Program Changes: 34: General Studies (BS)
4 Yay, 0 Nay, 1 Abstention, 3 no response. Result: **PASS**

009- 24F – Course Changes: GEN 303: Introduction to General Studies
4 Yay, 0 Nay, 1 Abstention, 3 no response. Result: **PASS**

010- 24F – Course Changes: GEN 305: Prior Learning Assessment
4 Yay, 0 Nay, 1 Abstention, 3 no response. Result: **PASS**

011- 24F – Course Changes: GEN 401: General Studies Capstone - CUE, WR
4 Yay, 0 Nay, 1 Abstention, 3 no response. Result: **PASS**

012- 24F – New Course Proposal: GEN 491: Undergraduate Research – WR
4 Yay, 0 Nay, 1 Abstention, 3 no response. Result: **PASS**