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Academic Policy Advisory Committee meeting minutes, March 24, 1998

Moorhead State University

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APAC Minutes
March 24, 1998

Members present: Reed, chair; Bolton, Brown, Conteh, Dalhouse, Grineski, Hauge-Stoffel, Jeppson, Fasick, Klenk, Krause, Sanderson, Schmidt, Smedman.

1. Art Department

Change course level of ART 250: Art Methods and Materials: Art for the Elementary classroom, to ART 350. This course was tabled at the 3/3/98 APAC meeting until the change was discussed with the Elementary & Early Childhood department.

Hauge-Stoffel made the motion to remove this course from the table for approval. Schmidt seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

Hauge-Stoffel stated that the EECE department requests listing the pre-requisites in the Bulletin and as part of the course description. Hauge-Stoffel concurs with that request. Pre-requisites are: ED 205, ED 205E and ED 294.

Smedman stated that the EECE department is concerned that there may not be enough Liberal Studies 200-level courses offered for transfer students. They receive a number of transfer students from Fergus Fall Community College and Bismarck State University. She felt other departments might have the same concern.

Motion to approve the new course level carried unanimously.

2. Revisions to the Course Level Change Proposal Form

Fasick moved. Krause seconded to approve adding this sentence to the bottom of the form: "Please consult with other departments if this course is required in their major/minor or program(s).

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Art Department

Suspension of the Master of Arts and Master of Science programs for a period of three years.

This suspension was approved by the Graduate Studies Committee.

Conteh moved. Sanderson seconded to approve of the suspension of these programs for a period of three years.

Bolton asked if these programs could be reinstated after three years. Reed answered that if these programs were not reinstated within a three-year period, they would be considered defunct programs. Allen Sheets stated that there are eight students currently enrolled who will be allowed to complete their coursework in these programs. No new students will be admitted into these programs.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Humanities and Multicultural Studies
Changes to the Chicano Studies Minor

A corrected copy of the proposed changes was distributed to APAC members.

Sanderson moved. Hauge-Stoffel seconded to approve the changes to the Chicano Studies Minor.

Krause suggested that a language requirement be added to the Minor. She believes that students in this Minor should have knowledge of Spanish. Berninger stated that he had discussed this with Krause and disagrees with adding a language requirement to the Minor. Sanderson noted that SPAN 201 and 202, or the equivalent, are being strongly recommended as electives. (SPAN 101 and 102 are prerequisites for 201 & 202). Berninger reported that after speaking with people of Hispanic descent from the community, he learned that a number of people with Hispanic origin do not speak Spanish but yet qualify as Chicanos. They also reviewed other Chicano Studies programs and found that slightly one-half did not have a language requirement.

Bolton asked if a student not of Hispanic origin can earn this Minor with no prior knowledge in this area. Berninger answered they want to make this Minor accessible to anyone. Conteh stated that we must not make programs exclusive to certain groups of people but keep them accessible to any student who is interested in our programs.

Schmidt asked if it is acceptable to use the term "Chicano." Berninger answered that twenty years ago it was named Mexican-American Studies, then it was changed to Chicano. Chicano is the nationally preferred term. Schmidt stated the U of MN uses the term Chicano in their program.

Conteh asked if they had considered including Intro to Political Science or American Government courses. Berninger stated that MCS 103 covers Chicano politics, which would probably not be covered in such detail in a political science course.

Tandberg noted the total credit requirement would be 22 (not 22-23).

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Student Senate Recommendation Regarding the Scheduling of Study Day, Finals and Commencement

Donald Lannoye (Student Senate President), Josh Ringquist (Student Senate VP) and Tiffany Stoeber and Jeff York (Student Senators) were present to field questions. Lannoye stated that students expressed an interest in reinstating the Study Day previously included in the quarter-system calendar. Students were surveyed and it was brought to a vote at a Student Senate meeting (24 in favor with 3 opposed). The proposal is as follows:

Whereas Moorhead State University students have shown positive concern for a study day, Student Senate recommends having a study day before finals week. We propose designating the Friday before each finals week as a Study Day. The Study Day would act as a non-instructional day for students to study, complete extensions, and mentally prepare for finals week.

Whereas Student Senate proposes finals week be the week immediately following the Study Day. Having a Study Day and extending finals week through Friday, will not change the number of class days. Therefore, no major changes to the academic schedule are foreseen.

Whereas residence halls are now open until noon on Saturday, extending finals week through Friday and holding the graduation ceremony on Saturday, is not foreseen to interfere with checking residents out and closing the residence halls.

In light of this, Student Senate proposes graduation commence on the Saturday of finals week. Having commencement on Saturday would enable more time for graduating students to take their finals and prepare for the commencement ceremony. It would also allow more time to travel, for those attending the ceremony.

Conteh asked what the financial implications would be for MSU if commencement was held on a Saturday. Lannoye stated it would cost MSU approximately \$14,000. No other information was available.

Klenk proposed holding Study Day on the Thursday before the Friday final exam day. Stoeber stated that students do not want to lose a vacation or semester-break day in order to makeup for a lost class day. Smedman stated that faculty who have class on Tuesdays & Thursdays would lose a class day under this scenario. Tandberg reported that MnSCU does not prescribe a specific number of class days.

Tandberg stated that another alternative would be to have four final exam days by scheduling two hour finals. Conteh stated he would not support the scheduling of four finals in one day. This would also make him reduce his exam time.

Sanderson stated another issue is faculty administering exams the week prior to final exams and noted that the University of Nebraska has a policy that prohibits that practice. Conteh stated that in his home country, a "revision week" is scheduled one-week prior to finals.

Fasick asked if APAC had the authority to implement a Study Day. Tandberg stated that APAC could make a recommendation but it would have to go through the governance process. The Calendar Committee would need to discuss this proposal too.

Fasick moved to endorse the concept of adding a Study Day to the MSU academic year calendar.

Smedman seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

The committee discussed if this endorsement of a Study Day meant implementation even if the schedule for finals was changed to four exam days.

Fasick made the motion stating that if a Study Day is added, it would not be added by changing the final exam schedule in such a way that a student would have more than two final exams in one day. Conteh seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Smedman asked if there was an appeal policy for students if they have more than two finals scheduled in a day. Tandberg answered there is no written policy but it has been a practice for those students to appeal to their Professor to reschedule their final and then to the Dean, if not obliged by the Professor.

Conteh stated that NDSU holds commencement on Saturday. It may be a hardship for parents to come to a Friday commencement, as they may have to take time off from work and may lose a day's wage. Conteh and Bolton both felt that funding a Saturday commencement should not be an issue if it is good public relations for MSU and if it will help MSU parents and students.

Sanderson asked how soon these changes could be implemented. Lannoye stated he was told that if the proposal was supported by APAC, the Faculty Association and President Barden, changes could be made to the 1998/99 academic calendar.

Bolton asked if there were any implications if MSU and NDSU have commencement on the same Saturday. Tandberg stated he did not know since the MSU and NDSU commencement dates have never conflicted.

Fasick requested more information about what is involved in order to have a Saturday commencement and would like to see opinions from MSU parents and students. Lannoye will survey students and acquire the essential facts regarding Saturday commencement for APAC members to review.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Gloria Riopelle