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Academic Policy Advisory Committee meeting minutes, September 15, 1998

Moorhead State University

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APAC Minutes
September 15, 1998

Members present: Reed, chair; Ahles, Brown, Dalhouse, Dobitz, Dunkirk, Erickson, Grineski, Hauge-Stoffel, Jeppson, Klenk, Klindworth, Mowry, Roberts, Ruth, Sanderson, Schmidt, Scholl, Shimabukuro, Smedman.

1. Introduction of members: Members introduced themselves. The APAC Manual was distributed to members.

Mike Ruth requested that Item 7 on the agenda be discussed first. There was no objection to change the order of the agenda.

2. Update on Items from 1997/98 APAC meetings:

a. +/- Grading Policy

Reed reminded members that President Barden had referred the +/- Grading Policy for discussion at a Student Senate meeting early fall semester. Reed stated, referring to the 9/10/98 Student Senate meeting minutes, that VP Butler brought the policy to the 9/10/98 Student Senate meeting and asked for feedback from them regarding this policy. Daniel Knighton, FA President, stated the +/- Grading Policy had finished the governance process last year. He asked when did students start deciding or setting academic policies? Reed stated that President Barden requested that the Student Senate be consulted regarding the proposed change in grading policy.

b. Saturday Commencement: The Student Senate is presently working on the Study Day/Graduation Day survey results.

c. FYE/Ropes Course: Concern was raised regarding FYE students not attending some of their classes in order to participate in a four hour Ropes course scheduled by their FYE class. Paula Ahles, FYE Program Director, was present to answer questions.

FYE students are given notices to present to instructors of their regularly scheduled classes asking to be excused in order for them to attend their FYE Ropes session. Questions raised at APAC included: who has the authority to release or excuse students from class, is the Student Absences policy stated in the 1998/99 Student Handbook (page 14) applicable to this issue, should that policy be reviewed as well or should only the FYE Ropes issue be reviewed, could FYE students attend a Ropes session with another FYE group which would not conflict with their other classes, could the course be scheduled on an evening or weekend, are we sending the right message to students allowing them to miss class for this purpose, should the APAC be concerned with these type of scheduling issues or should the FYE program resolve these concerns?

Daniel Knighton asked Ahles how many IFO faculty are teaching FYE courses fall semester. Ahles answered approximately 20 instructors are teaching FYE (1/2 MSUAASF & 1/2 IFO) and explained that MSUASSF are considered service faculty. The request for FYE instructors was solicited through Continews last spring. Those applications went through a selection process. Ahles stated the solicitation process will try to be improved for next year.

Ahles reported the Ropes Challenge course is a required lab experience for FYE students. It is very effective in building teamwork, cohesiveness, and group problem-solving skills.

Students who take the Ropes course tend to make a stronger connection to MSU. Carol Dobitz and Sheila Gullickson, both experienced FYE instructors, agreed with that statement. Ahles stated she is willing to review scheduling options, however, students would probably not attend evening and/or weekend sessions.

Roberts made the motion to discuss the Student Absences policy at a future APAC meeting and the excused and unexcused absences issue. Ruth seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Music Department

Minor Changes:

Change course number of MUS 150: Class Piano (1 cr.) to:
MUS 150A: Class Piano I and MUS 150B: Class Piano II
(MUS 150A will be a prerequisite to MUS 150B)

Sanderson asked why the courses would be tagged with A & B. John Tandberg, Registrar, replied that the letters only differentiate the order of the courses. Shimabukuro requested explanation of the music course numbering system. No explanation was available.

The committee found no objection to the changes as requested.

4. Honors Program:

New Course:

HONORS 307: From Caesar Augustus to Christ the King: The Transformation of the Roman World, 31 B.C. to A.D. 312 (4 cr.).

(The Liberal Studies Committee approved this course for Liberal Studies Division D1 at their 4/20/98 meeting.)

Sanderson moved. Smedman seconded to approve.

Michael Hughey, Honors Program Coordinator, distributed memos from three departments supporting the course.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Nursing Department:

New Course:

NURS 417: Holistic Nursing (2 cr.)

Smedman moved. Scholl seconded to approve.

Questions were raised regarding the data sources students will need for this course.

Joanna Snyder was present to field questions.

Motion to approve this course carried unanimously.

6. Mass Communications:

Changes in Mass Communications' Major requirements:

- a. Change 25 non-communication elective credits to "25 elective credits,
- b. Eliminate "38 credit limit in mass communications" out of the required 128 credits for graduation.

Ruth moved. Hauge-Stoffel seconded to approve these changes.

C.T. Hanson, Mass Communications Chairperson, was present to field questions related to the limit of elective credits a student can take in their major. He explained that students in journalism, advertising, public relations, etc. can not currently take communication classes in other areas with the current rule. Mass Communications does not have any classes that count for Liberal Studies credit so their students are exposed to other areas through the liberal studies requirements.

Motion to approve both changes carried unanimously.

7. East Asian Studies Major (Hearing Only)

Faculty from the Language department were present to field questions. Jenny Lin reported that this major utilizes existing courses; there are no new courses needed to offer this major. She conducted a survey reporting high interest in this major. John Hall stated that this major is not offered in our region although, it is offered in the Twin Cities.

Smedman stated this is a timely proposal.

Ruth asked if 16 credits in a language would suffice and should a major in language be required? Lin and Dean Klenk support 16 credits of either Chinese or Japanese language courses. Peter Geib, Business Administration faculty, stated that more than two years in a language is need if a person wants to be fluent in the language; two years of a foreign language gives students a base to work from. International Business is carried out in the English language but emphasized that foreign language is important too. Lin stated other universities with this major have this same language requirement.

A student, who recently studied in China, supports the proposal and agreed that two years is adequate for the language requirement. Hall stated this is an Areas Study major, not a Language major. Klenk reported that this major meets the MnSCU upper-level requirements.

Action on the East Asian Studies Major will be taken at the October 6, 1998, APAC meeting.

8. Other:

John Tandberg requested the following be added to the APAC new course proposal form:

"Registration Edits: _____"

This addition will make entering GPA requirements and/or other restrictions students must adhere to when taking the course, easier for the Registrar's office. This request will be placed on the October 6, 1998 APAC agenda for action.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Gloria Riopelle