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Academic Policy Advisory Committee meeting minutes, March 7, 2000

Moorhead State University

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APAC Minutes
March 7, 2000

Members present: Midgarden, Chair; Borchers, Borgerson, Conteh, Dalhouse, Davis, Dobitz, Dunkirk, Frederick, Goodman, Grineski, Jeppson, Klenk, Klindworth, Neuman, Reed, Ruth, Sanderson, Shimabukuro, Welken.

VP Midgarden congratulated Shawn Dunkirk for being selected as the 1999/2000 recipient of the Beth and Roland Dille Distinguished Faculty Lecturer. Dunkirk's lecture is scheduled for the evening of April 17, 2000.

1. Computer Science & Information Systems

The committee had no objections to the following minor changes:

Change course title of CSIS 257: Object Oriented Programming (3 cr.) to: Object Oriented Software Development

Change related requirements in Computer Science major to reflect the Biology course number changes: Biology 303 or 305 instead of Biology 114 or 124.

2. Nursing Department

The committee had no objection to the following minor change:

Drop Nursing 318 as a prerequisite for NURS 346: Community Based Nursing (3 cr.)

3. Biology Department

Sanderson moved. Dunkirk seconded to approve the following new course:
BIOL 442: Middle School Science Teaching Methods (1 cr.) to be cross-listed with Chemistry and Physics. (The Teacher Preparation Committee reviewed this course on 3/2/00. The course must be presented to the Board of Teaching on April 1, 2000.)

Mary Shimabukuro, Biology Chairperson, stated that this course will be offered spring semester 2000/2001. Conteh asked if the Elementary Education department was polled if this course would be of interest to their students. Shimabukuro answered that a poll was not taken but Education faculty are sending students to them who are interested in the science areas.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Art Department

Major change:
Redesign of Art BFA

Sanderson moved. Welken seconded to approve the following change:

Request for a reduction in the minimum number of credits required for the BFA degree in Art from 156 credits to 132 credits by eliminating free electives (20 credits) as required credits and by reducing studio requirements in the final year by 4 credits.

Faculty from the Art Department (Allen Sheets, Donald Clark, Lila Hauge-Stoffel, Wil Shynkaruk) and Theodore Gracyk were present to answer questions. Sheets stated that the BFA in Art has been offered at MSU for approximately 25 years and there are an estimated 30-40 students enrolled in the program each year. This proposal eliminates 20 free electives from the BFA but students will be allowed to enroll in more than the minimum amount of credits in order to be eligible for financial aid or be considered a full-time student. The program requirements will remain the same. Gracyk stated that institutions across the country require fewer general education requirements in their BFA programs.

Motion to approve carried unanimously.

5. Definition of Seminar (The request to discuss this topic was voted on at the 2/1/00 APAC meeting.)

The committee discussed the differences of seminars within each department and various APAC members described how seminars are taught in their department/programs. Conteh expressed his concern that students who enroll in seminars are not prepared academically. He stated that the seminar topic should be related to course topics the students have already had. Shimabukuro stated that the curriculum of the department should be reviewed if it is not structured to teach students background information before entering into their seminar. Conteh asked what APAC's philosophy is in terms of approving seminar proposals. Midgarden answered that APAC approves the individual proposal with the department's description of how the course will be taught, assigning the course number, the level of material to be offered and the pre-requisites. Welken stated that he believes that individual departments should continue in deciding how to offer their own seminars. He counted 10 different seminar offerings in the Bulletin which are described as topics courses to be designated by the instructor and involve student research. Consensus was that departments are currently using seminar courses appropriately and that there is no need to develop a definition of "seminar."

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Gloria Riopelle

Please note the following:

- The March 21, 2000 APAC meeting is cancelled.
- The last submission deadline to APAC is March 23, 2000. Materials (27 copies + the original) must be delivered to Academic Affairs (Owens 205) by that date.