Minutes
University Senate Academic Policies Committee
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Guests: M. Cassidy, C. Smith, J. Prushiek, D. Jones

Chair Pratt called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM

1. Meeting minutes: Minutes from the 11/05/13 meeting were approved with the revision of changing "Doug" to D. Dunham on list of those present.

2. Department of Foreign Language Proposal: Add emphasis in Linguistics for Spanish major

C. Smith presented rationale for the proposal. There is growing interest in linguistics, especially applied linguistics. This emphasis would offer potential for interesting synergies with other departments and programs such as English, AIS, Hmong Studies. There would be no need for extra staffing, as there are already three faculty with linguistics expertise who could teach the additional four courses, two of which would be offered each semester.

S. Wical asked if the new emphasis would be adequately served by the existing library resources. C. Smith indicated that existing library services would suffice.

J. Pratt asked if adding these courses would diminish the department's ability to offer liberal education courses. C. Smith indicated that it would not.

L. Bica asked if investment in Spanish in this way would draw interest away from other language programs. C. Smith didn't think so. They have seen increased interest in other language programs as well.

S. Fish asked about the level of interest in the emphasis by students. C. Smith said a recent survey of students indicated roughly 150 students who expressed interest.

J. Hoepner stated that there is interest in the linguistic emphasis from CSD.

M. Carney asked for confirmation that adding the new courses would not impinge other Spanish majors or limit 100 and 200 level courses offered. C. Smith confirmed this.

In response to a question by D. Mowry, C. Smith indicated that there is strong departmental support for this emphasis.
J. Hoepner moved that we add a new emphasis entitled Linguistics Emphasis (Code 320-2XX) within the Major: Spanish, Liberal Arts. The motion was seconded by S. Duckworth-Lawton. Motion passed 9-0-0.

3. Department of English Proposals: Rename Literature emphasis within the major and minor

David Jones presented background for the proposal. It has been about 10 years since this emphasis has been looked at. The name change reflects shift in areas of expertise and interest in departmental faculty and in the discipline overall. Currently, there is no standard distribution for some of the courses offered, requiring students to get a waiver and thus adversely affecting enrollments. The proposed change offers a more flexible course structure. Changing wording would formalize a shift that is already happening. The department is looking to ramp up courses in critical theory and popular culture.

J. Pratt asked if the change, particularly in the area of film, would put the English department in competition with other departments, notably Communication and Journalism. D. Jones responded that in the English department the emphasis is on film as text whereas the Comm/Journ departmental offerings emphasize film production or film as mass communication.

D. Mowry asked if popular culture would encompass social media. D. Jones indicated that most of that would probably fall in the area of rhetoric.

S. Wical asked if the library collection adequately supports film studies. D. Jones responded that Stacy Thompson and Bob Nowlan are the faculty members who work in that area and would be encouraged to look at the library collection in that way. (B. Nowlan is currently on sabbatical).

J. Pratt asked if the shift in emphasis would have an impact on the department’s ability to offer existing courses. D. Jones indicated that the shift would be more inclusive of courses that are already on the books.

S. Duckworth-Lawton moved to rename the Literature emphasis (Code 540-206) within the Major: English, Liberal Arts to Critical Studies in Literatures, Cultures, and Film (Code 540-2XX) and to rename the Literature emphasis (Code 540-407) within the Minor: English, Liberal Arts to Critical Studies in Literatures, Cultures, and Film (Code 540-4XX). N. Gannon seconded the motion. Motion passed: 9-0-0

4. Upcoming agenda items

J. Prushiek announced that CoEHS will be proposing:
- a new Unified Early Childhood emphasis in Special Education
- a new UEC prefix
- suspension of the current Early education emphasis.

Meeting adjourned at 2:47.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Markgraf, recorder for the meeting