

## **Discovery Committee Minutes, March 21, 2012**

**Present:** Barb White, Michele Holt-Shannon, Dennis Britton, David Richman, Wayne Fagerberg, Tom Safford, Kathie Forbes, Sean Moore, Steve Pugh, Jing Wang, Ihab Farag, Jessica Fruchtman, Lisa MacFarlane (Absent: Rosemary Caron, Bill Ross)

### **Next meeting: Wednesday, April 4, 2012**

**Motion:** David Richman moved and Ihab Farag seconded approval of the minutes of the meeting of February 29, 2012.

**Vote:** 5 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain. **Motion passed.**

### **The committee took the following action:**

*The following courses were reviewed for the categories/attributes listed:*

#### **COLA**

ENGL 534 – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Journalism: How the News Works – HUMA – Tabled review pending further information from the faculty person.

PHIL 525 - *Existentialism* – HUMA/INQ – HUMA: Approved. INQ: Tabled review pending further information from the faculty person.

### **The Committee discussed the following:**

*Semester-At-Sea:* We have come up with the idea of a Semester at Sea Maymester course – potentially an INQ 444 – that a UNH professor will teach, that will be associated with the UD topic. We've had a long relationship with Semester at Sea, it's approved through CIE, and the Exec Director is UNH Alum, and on the FDN Board. He came to us suggesting that we could tie the at sea experience to our curriculum, and have a scholarship program that would bring the Semester at Sea cost down for students. We thought it was a nice way to bolster the UD, highlight our work at UNH, and a lovely opportunity for the right faculty person (including their family).

UVA would be the academic host of the program, but it's our UNH Discovery course. We, the DC, approve it, then it goes through UVA, and comes back through UNH. A Maymester would cap the first year experience. They sail late enough in May that it works with our academic calendar. This is a great opportunity for having the UD foregrounded as central to the FY experience. We need to determine today whether we will tie this first Maymester experience, slated for May, 2013, with the dialogue topic of the year they travel, or the upcoming topic of the next academic year. It is best for us to have things clarified by June orientation. For 2012-13 the topic is "Live Free or Die? A University Dialogue on Freedom and Responsibility."

It is possible that the course could be a special topics INCO course that we approve for Discovery, like an INCO 444, then the topic changes out each year with the UD topic. It is possible to create a course template for this. It can be similar to the original INQ course template/idea as it was proposed.

For this one year, we will go with the 2012-13 topic for the first Maymester at Sea, and put out a call for proposals to all faculty. It would make sense that preference would be given to those proposals that coalesce around the topic. The selection process will be tough. Selecting among courses is not this committee's brief. We can vet for category and attribute, but the DC is not the right committee to choose who goes to sea. An ad hoc committee is a possibility. That committee would have to have a real understanding of what this is, and what it means to teach this way. Semester at Sea has resources we may access.

**Meeting adjourned 1:30pm**