

Discovery Committee Minutes, April 4, 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, Rosemary Caron (Absent: Jessica Fruchtman, Lisa MacFarlane, Bill Ross)

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 18, 2012

Motion: David Richman moved and Ihab Farag seconded approval of the minutes of the meeting of March 21, 2012.

Vote: 6 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 – 21st Century Journalism: How the News Works – ETS – Approved.

HIST 490 – *Medieval History Through Film* – HUMA – Tabled review pending further information from the faculty person.

PHIL 525 - *Existentialism* – INQ: Revised version is not sufficient for all members to vote. An e-vote will be conducted within the next couple of days due to registration opening soon.

PHIL 520 – *Intro to Eastern Philosophy* – This course was added to the agenda as an addendum and not all DC members received the course materials. Course will be reviewed at the next DC meeting, April 18.

Student Petitions:

CEPS student appeal of a decision on his petition to have HIST 538 count as fulfilling his Discovery HP requirement - The student's major department chair and faculty advisor support the appeal, citing the student's heavily prescribed major, and that he would have to enroll in a J-Term or summer course to meet this HP requirement, that he was mis-advised by the department, and that he is not attempting to side-step the requirement but took the "wrong course." If we approve the petition and make an exception, we need to ask the department what they are going to do in the future to prevent this from happening again. Since the Senate passed the suggestion that faculty always include attributes on their syllabus will this improve? We are tracking that in preparation for NEASC 5-yr-review. *Approval of the exception to academic variance – 7 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain.* Letter from Kathie Forbes, Registrar, will go to the student; letter from Barb will go to the department and college.

Student who participated in Project SMART, summer 2011; the student wants to have the 4-credit INCO course associated with this summer experience meet her DISCO BS requirement. The course occurs prior to entering college. It is not equivalent to a BIOL course at the undergrad level. It's a great program, but not a Discovery course. If the faculty lead of Project SMART would like to propose the idea of this meeting a Discovery requirement, it can be sent through for vetting. This was an exploratory question, and the DC would not support it.

The Committee discussed the following:

Faculty Senate Report: The DC reviewed the Discovery Program Report that Barb is scheduled to deliver to the Faculty Senate at their meeting on April 16, 2012.

INQ Seats Availability: As of next fall, 2012, we will be running a deficit in INQ seats. We're not exactly sure how this came to be, but it may be a combination of advising, and of students not getting their first choice so deciding to wait. What impact has the INQ attribute course had on covering this? Do we know what the demand is? Do we know how many students are supposed to take these classes? The advisors would have known on an individual basis, but the departments and colleges may not have known. Should UNHM be left out of this report? Allotment tracks the Durham campus only, as UNHM is considered self-contained and meeting its INQ demand. Amy will run the UNHM INQ enrollment numbers to verify this. Michele will follow up with UNHM about rising JRs and SOs.

Course Clusters: The DC reviewed the list of Discovery course clusters that was compiled under the topic areas. These lists will be posted on the Discovery website.

Meeting adjourned 1:30pm