

Arts & Sciences Council Minutes
March 28, 2012

Present: Elizabeth Robertson, Joseph Lenz, Colin Cairns, Curt Cardwell, Mahmoud Hamad, Eric Manley, Amy O'Shaughnessy

Elizabeth called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

The Council unanimously approved minutes from the 2/29/12 Council meeting.

Dean's Report

The April Council meeting will be the last Council meeting of the year, and Joe explained that the A&S faculty handbook assigns tasks for this final meeting: newly-elected members are invited to the meeting, the next chair of Council is selected, and new members of faculty committees are ratified. Joe will organize the list of eligible candidates for Council Chair prior to the April meeting, and the Dean's office will prepare a list of appointees for Council's approval on April 25th.

Joe also noted that Arts & Sciences Honors Convocation will be held April 10th at 6:30 p.m. in Parent's Hall, and DUCURS will be held April 12th throughout the day in Upper Olmsted.

Edits to A&S Curriculum Forms

Eric requested that the form have a text box so that faculty might explain why restrictions should be placed on the course. This might facilitate communication a bit easier and avoid the common re-submission process because of questions that arise about restrictions.

Colin said that he's not convinced it's necessary to have on the form; the curriculum committee should catch this deficiency in the proposal.

Mahmoud asked the purpose of the question "Who else in the department is qualified to teach this course?" Colin responded that the question is intended to see that the department considers that if the new course will be essential to the curriculum, that there would be someone else to cover the course; not a reason for the curriculum committee to reject a course. If the department creates a new required course, as a program, there should be more than one person who could teach it.

Elizabeth asked why the question, "Has this change been approved by the department?" is not on the Course change form, while it is present on the new course form. The Council agreed that this addition should be made to the Course Change form.

Both forms are unanimously approved with the noted addition to the Course Change form.

New Courses

Art 012: Introduction to 2-D Dimensional Design for Non-Art Majors

This course was unanimously approved.

REL 003: Introduction to World Religions

REL 062: Religions of India

REL 064: Introduction to Buddhism

REL 126: Comparative Religions

REL 131: Apocalyptic America

PHIL 130: Minds, Brains, and Computers

PHIL 140: Neuroscience and the Law

Elizabeth commented that a few of these courses are being taught this term; Colin noted that these are currently being taught under special topics numbers within the department.

These courses are unanimously approved.

PSY 154: Theories of Consciousness

This course was previously taught as Paths to Knowledge, now seeking a permanent number in the Psychology department.

This course is unanimously approved.

Changes to existing courses seeking approval

POLS 126: The Political Economy of Globalization

POLS 129: Comparative Asian Politics

The previous title of this course was too long and also led students to focus on the salvation piece, while the course material is largely focused upon economic aspects.

These changes are unanimously approved.

Changes to existing courses; notification, no approval needed

REL 111: Eastern Philosophy

POLS 127: Global Health

The meeting adjourned at 4:02 p.m.