**HSS Curriculum Committee (HSSCC)**

**Minutes 3 November 2015**

**Location: SO 3020**

**In attendance:**

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| [x]  Katarina Gephardt (ENGL) | [x]  Christopher Randall (PSYC) | [x]  Teresa Raczek (GEOG/ANTH) |
| [x]  Kim Haimes-Korn (DWMA) | [x]  Chris Pallas (POLS/IA) – Substitute Jack Moran | [x]  Ryan Ronnenberg (HIST) |
| [x]  Pauline Howes (COMM) | [x]  Chris Palmer (ENGL) | [x]  Linda Treiber (SOC/CJ), Chair |
| [x]  Chien-pin Li (Dean’s Office) | [x]  Federica Santini (FL) | [x]  Griselda Thomas (ISD) |

Also in attendance as presenters/guests: Darren Crovitz, Elizabeth Giddens, Michael Lahey, Laura McGrath, Laura Palmer, Herbert Smith, Mike Tierce

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Treiber at 12.30.

**Approval of minutes from previous meeting (20 October 2015):**

L. Treiber proposed clarifying language to reflect the approval of both the BS in Technical Communication and Interactive Design, BS on first reading. A motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded. The motion to approve was passed by voice vote of the full committee.

Comments regarding DWMA's programs: Dr. Li clarified that the DWMA programs were reviewed during the disentanglement process last year, and since they were entered into Curriculog, the review process has not been expedited and there was no contact from the Dean’s office mandating that the review process be expedited.

**Old Business:**

Department of Digital Writing and Media Arts:

**DWMA Prefix and ID Courses**:

* Kim Haimes-Korn explained the revisions made to the DWMA-prefix courses since the last meeting, including the removal of references to the pending third degree program. Michael Lahey said that he re-uploaded a letter of support for the ID degree program proposal from the School of Art and Design and explained additional revisions that he made since the last meeting. L. Treiber had questions about the ID program, especially regarding the remaining references to the planned third degree. Chris Palmer added that for DWMA 3430 reference to “the three majors” also needed to be removed.
* C. Palmer thanked K. Haines-Korn and M. Lahey for making the suggested changes and offered some comments based on feedback from the English Department on the DMWA Programs. Mike Tierce suggested changes in prerequisites for the ID program.
* C. Palmer mentioned that the English Department put some comments in Curriculog to save time and then addressed some global concerns about the DWMA proposals. Given that there was a third degree in the works and DWMA courses were also going to be a part of that degree, C. Palmer said that the English Department strongly suggested tabling the DWMA courses at this point in order to prevent the courses returning back to the CHSS Curriculum Committee at a later date. K. Haines-Korn explained that the courses were autonomous and were the backbone of the two proposed degree programs in Curriculog.
* C. Palmer next addressed content concerns. The English Department was under the impression that there would be an opportunity to discuss any content-related concerns during the curriculum review process. He mentioned that DWMA 2050 had an error in the course description. There was a discussion on the implications of DWMA 2070 being writing and/or “writing intensive” course. Elizabeth Giddens addressed issues in the descriptions of the course purpose and pointed out terms that needed to be clarified. M. Lahey explained his choices in the description in light of the target audience of design-oriented students. C. Palmer addressed issues of differentiation among DWMA 3400, 3800, and 4500, especially given that they use the same textbook. Chris Palmer asked why there was not a prerequisite for DWMA 3400. M. Lahey explained that having no prerequisite was intentional because this was an introductory course. 1101 and/or 1102 were suggested as potential prerequisites, since a 3000-level course without a prerequisite would be unusual at KSU.
* C. Palmer concluded by proposing that the review of the DWMA-prefix courses be postponed until their relationship with the projected third degree program is clear. E. Giddens pointed out that there were some weaknesses in the syllabi for the DWMA courses that impeded understanding of what the courses would include. For example, she pointed out that DWMA 4430 does not include any graded assignments. M. Lahey said that it would be possible for the original author of the syllabus to develop and specify the assignment descriptions if necessary.
* C. Palmer and K. Gephardt proposed a motion for the DWMA- prefix courses to be tabled and reviewed at a later date alongside the third degree program. Teresa Raczek asked what the negative consequences of the delay could be. K. Haines-Korn explained that it would affect the DWMA’s ability to recruit students and sustain the other two programs. C. Palmer clarified that English would support a quick resolution, but insisted on the necessity of reviewing the DWMA prefix courses along with the new program. Griselda Thomas asked about the possibility of overlap with courses being offered elsewhere at KSU (specifically in the case of DWMA 3800 and DWMA 3430). M. Lahey explained that they already checked with Computer Science and The School of Art and Design. Laura McGrath discussed IT 3203 (Introduction to Web Development) as an example of a course that potentially overlapped with a DWMA course. M. Lahey explained that his coding course fits the specific needs of the DWMA program and will prepare students for a specific market distinct from the target audience for IT courses. There was no second for the motion to table DWMA-prefix courses.
* There was a motion to approve DWMA courses pending the proposed changes and adjustments, including clarifying language, adding prerequisites, eliminating remaining references to the third program, and including specific writing assignments (DWMA 4430). There was a vote to approve the DWMA-prefix courses, the B.S. in Technical Communication, the B.S. in Interactive Design, and the ID-prefix courses on second reading. 8 committee members voted “yes” and 1 abstained. There were several edits that needed to be made as conditions of the committee approval. L. Treiber agreed to make these changes. Michael Lahey agreed to send a list of these.
Some of the changes include:
The BS in Interactive Design and the DWMA front-end development courses need to eliminate the mention of “three majors" and/or any references to the “Writing and New Media degree.” We will also double check for needed edits in the language of all the applicable courses.

Edits needed to be made to the BS in ID that included changing ART from 3022 to 3020 and fixing the syllabus to reflect that.

**New Business:**

**Department of Digital Writing and Media Arts, B.S. in Technical Communication (Program and Course Proposals)**

* Herbert Smith described the changes and clarified the changes that were made to the TCOM program courses, including prerequisites. K. Gephardt presented a statement from the English Department regarding the concerns about the TCOM program being separated from professional communication. H. Smith explained the long-term tradition of the program and its affiliations with professional organizations, pointing out that there was also a context for technical communication being separated from professional and business communication. Laura Palmer pointed out that there were precedents for technical communication to be housed outside of other departments.
* M. Tierce explained a problem with a potential bottleneck for introductory courses, if there are not enough sections/options available for students, and suggested that the TCOM program add courses to create more options for students, including courses that were a part of the program rather than relying on courses offered by the English Department (specifically English 4240, WRIT 3150). K. Haines-Korn explained how some of the original counterparts of the current DMWA-prefix courses were reformulated as a part of the consolidation process, which led to the inclusion of English Department courses in the DWMA programs requirements. C. Li said that some options would be adding a third course or a special topics course to fulfill the requirement, and pointed out that there would be time to make adjustments as needed depending on enrollment. K. Haines-Korn asked about the possibility of adding a special topics course to that area instead of relying on an English Department course. M. Tierce pointed out the difficulty of using a special topics course and argued that a specific, autonomous course would work better. M. Tierce expressed a concern about the viability of the program in terms of covering required courses. Laura Palmer acknowledged the logistics behind M. Tierce’s argument but suggested that we wait to see how the program evolves in the future. L. Treiber stressed the need for the review of the programs to go forward. Pauline Howes asked about the projected enrollment of the program. Laura Palmer said that the current number of majors was about 35 and could potentially reach 200 in the future. Mike Tierce emphasized that his concern was about students’ ability to take courses that they needed to graduate. E. Giddens reiterated the point that dividing technical communication from professional communication was problematic given the philosophical overlap of the two fields, which is why the English Department wished that the CC could resolve how the programs interact at once and avoid creating problems for future students. G. Thomas asked for clarification on what English was asking the TCOM program to do in order to increase the number of options for introductory courses.
* C. Li provided context for the consolidation process and explained that the Disentanglement Committee could not structure a motion to vote to approve programs at the end of the disentanglement process, so the agreement was to allow the programs to move forward for curriculum review. Mike Tierce said that he had hoped that the issue of program and course content would be addressed in the CHSS Curriculum Committee. There was a motion to approve the proposed TCOM courses and the vote first reading of the TCOM courses was voted on. 7 voted “yes” and 2 abstained. The second reading of these courses will appear on the agenda for the next meeting.

**General Education Proposals (SCJ, GA, PSYC, ISD Courses):**

* C. Li explained the consolidation-based context for including SPSU introductory social science courses in General Education, a proposal that was rejected by the Board of Regents. After negotiations, 6 proposals to include 3-credit-hour social science courses in General Education were approved. There was a motion to approve a proposal for the General Education Council to move these courses from core area B1 to core area E4. The motion was approved unanimously on first reading. There was a motion to approve the second reading, which was also unanimously approved by committee vote.

**Next Meeting:**

* L. Treiber said that items on the agenda that are outstanding will be put into an online version of a meeting. There was a discussion on what should be included in the online agenda, and the conclusion was that the curriculum proposals listed under “New Business” were to be put online to be considered for a first reading.

Meeting adjourned at 1:53 p.m.