

Discovery Committee Minutes – Mar 10, 2021

Present (Zoom): Nicky Gullace (chair), Kathrine Aydelott (vice chair), Sajay Arthanat, Jay Colbert, Andy Colby, Jillian Cookinham, Roger Grinde, Yvette Lazdowski, Lisa MacFarlane, Greg McMahon, Alicia Medros, Dawn Meredith, Amy Oliva, Catherine Peebles, Charles Vannette

Absent: Norma Bazyliniski, Subhash Minocha

I. Welcome and Announcements

II. Action Items

Minutes

Motion: Kathrine Aydelott moved and Roger Grinde seconded approval of the minutes of the Feb 24, 2021 meeting. **Vote:** Yes 5; No 0; Abs 1. **Motion passed.** Minutes approved.

Course and/or Program Review

COLA

- PHIL 405 and 405W Critical Thinking – HUMA/INQ/WI

Motion: Charles Vannette moved and Kathrine Aydelott seconded approval of PHIL 405 & 405W for HUMA.

Vote: Yes 7; No 0; Abs 0. **Motion passed.** Both courses approved for HUMA.

Motion: Kathrine Aydelott moved and Sajay Arthanat seconded approval of PHIL 405 & 405W for INQ.

Vote: Yes 6; No 0; Abs 1. **Motion passed.** Both courses approved for INQ.

Motion: Dawn Meredith moved and Kathrine Aydelott seconded approval of PHIL 405W for WI.

Vote: Yes 7; No 0; Abs 0. **Motion passed.** PHIL 405W approved for WI.

- THDA 444A What's Old Becomes New – request to reactivate for FPA/INQ/WI (plans to offer as Honors in F21)

The DC agreed that the Discovery Office request the faculty person revise the syllabus as follows before they reconfirm the course for Discovery:

- Greater clarification of grading and assessment of student work.
- More explicit information as to how the course meets the criteria of an [Inquiry course](#).
- More explicit information as to how the course meets [Writing Intensive](#) course criteria.
- To please include the Fine & Performing Arts [Student Learning Outcomes](#).

The DC will review at their next meeting, 3/24/21. Andy Colby confirmed the timing of this review was okay for fall 2021 registration.

Student Petitions

There were no student petitions for review.

III. Discussion

Discovery Review Updates - The DC discussed the status of the Discovery Review Committee (DRC) Proposal, asking questions on behalf of their depts. and colleges, including:

Q: Will courses need to be resubmitted to the DC for the “new” Discovery categories and/or attributes?

A: No, unless they are asking for an interdisciplinary attribute to be added or are requesting a change in category (e.g., HUMA, FPA, etc.).

Q: Will the Diversity & Inequality: The United States Experience (DEI) requirement be one course that every student has to take?

A: That is how the requirement was originally proposed. However, there are discussions taking place regarding how best to move forward with the requirement. Nicky reported that the requirement could be fulfilled with courses from a variety of departments including History, American Studies, Economics, Sociology, Political Science, Humanities, Health Sciences, Justice Studies, Environmental Science, and other programs equipped to offer a historically informed course on Diversity & Inequality in the United States context.

Q: Will the DC oversee the DEI requirement?

A: Erin Sharp, Faculty Senate Chair, is setting up an ad hoc committee to develop Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) for the DEI requirement. It has been discussed that if the requirement is passed, one-two representatives from the ad hoc committee could also sit on the DC for the purpose of reviewing and assessing DEI courses.

Q: Will COLA students be required to fulfill both the Discovery DEI requirement and the COLA two-course DEI requirement?

A: The thought currently is that if courses count for the COLA DEI requirement, they could also count for the Discovery DEI requirement.

It was commented that faculty are very concerned about what the process for modifying existing courses and proposing new ones will be. It was suggested that one way to allay faculty fears would be to make public how implementation of any new requirements is going to be handled.

Nicky informed the group that she and Scott Smith would be attending the March 15, Faculty Senate meeting for further discussion of the DRC Proposal.

Meeting adjourned 1:45pm.

Submitted by Amy M. Oliva