The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Undergraduate Educational Policy and Curriculum Committee

**Minutes**

Thursday, February 7, 2019

Attending: Helena Dettmer (Chair); Andrew Forbes; Matthew Gilchrist; Kathryn Hall (staff); Anita Jung; Meena Khandelwal; Jerald Moon; Tristan Schmidt; Shaun Vecera

Absent: Jill Beckman; Rebekah Kowal; Ana Rodríguez-Rodríguez

1. The minutes from January 31, 2019, were approved as written.
2. Matthew Gilchrist, UEPCC liaison to the General Education Curriculum Committee (GECC), reviewed the proposals recently discussed by GECC and the reasons for the approval recommendations from the committee for the courses below. The UEPCC also noted that the size of the GE Diversity and Inclusion courses is important since the learning outcomes require student reflection on difficult topics and those conversations are affected by class size. GECC will be reminded of those concerns. UEPCC then recommended GE CLAS Core status as follows:

* GE CLAS Core status for HIST:2268 African American History since the Civil War (3 s.h.) in the area of Diversity and Inclusion
* GE CLAS Core status for SOC:1020 Social Problems (3 s.h.) in the area of Diversity and Inclusion (DI)
* GE CLAS Core status for COMM:1168 Music and Social Change (3 s.h.) in the area of Diversity and Inclusion (DI)

1. A proposal for a new major in Screenwriting (BA) from the Department of Cinematic Arts was discussed with Steven Ungar, Professor, Interim DEO of Cinematic Arts, and Anahita Ghazvinizadeh, Assistant Professor, Cinematic Arts. The proposal stems from a three-year initiative led by Alan McVey, Director of the Division of Performing Arts, and by faculty from Communication Studies, Cinema, English, Theatre, and others. This initiative explored the possibility of creating more opportunities on campus related to screenwriting, including the creation of a Fellowship program that is now in place and partially funded by the UI Foundation, with this program bringing screenwriters to campus to write and to participate in related activities for both undergraduate and graduate students. The curriculum component of the initiative is the resulting proposal for a BA in Screenwriting, which, like the current majors in Cinema and English and Creative Writing, draws on the long creative tradition at the University of Iowa. Students in the Screenwriting Arts BA will be instructed on practical skills and knowledge needed for becoming successful members of the screenwriting industry, but even more importantly will study history, theory, and cultural aspects related to screenwriting, encouraging screenwriting to rise to the level of an art form while contributing to the world-wide status of Iowa City as a UNESCO City of Literature and to UI’s prestige as the Writing University. UEPCC members wondered if the major focused enough on international cinema and its traditions and had a number of questions about the learning outcomes of the major, hoping that they focused on liberal arts outcomes as well as those needed for a successful first career. Steve Ungar assured the committee that a purely professional program focused on industry standards was not the intent of the initiative since such skills can be gained through apprenticeship in the business. The value of the program is its liberal arts approach, with students exposed to history, cultural studies, and the rich tradition of the narrative in its many genres and cultural traditions. Likewise, international approaches are vital to the program’s innovation. The initiative has made valuable connections with liberal arts departments outside of Cinema as well as with those in critical areas related to international perspectives, including the International Writing Program, the Literary Translation Program, and the Creative Writing Program in Spanish. The importance of the internship to the major was next discussed since those experiences are generally offered on either coast, far from Iowa, or in Chicago or other larger cities, for example. Anahita Ghazvinizadeh reviewed the many opportunities for students that involve workshops, labs, and fellowships in Chicago and elsewhere. These resources will be shared with students, and students will be able to apply credit hours earned in these experiences to the required elective component of the major. Resources were also discussed, with the need for an additional advisor noted, especially as the program reaches its second and third year and enrollments grow. The additional advisor could also help support involvement with internships. Likewise, an additional instructor and other faculty will be needed, depending on growth of enrollments. After the guests left, the conversation continued, with UEPCC recommending the approval of the proposed major in Screenwriting (BA). The proposal will next be discussed at Faculty Assembly.
2. UEPCC made additional recommendations for topics of importance to discuss this spring, with particular interest in the progress of the ACE Online Committee reviewing the use and content of teaching evaluations.
3. Adjournment of meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Jung  
Professor, Art and Art History   
Secretary for UEPCC