

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
The Undergraduate Educational Policy and Curriculum Committee

Minutes

240 SH

October 26, 2023

Attending: Asha Bhandary, Cornelia Lang (chair), Cinda Coggins Mosher, Jill Beckman, Amira Qidwai, Amy Strathman, Jean-Francois Charles, Rodica Curtu

Absent: Christine Shea, Anita Jung, Emilie Maurel-Destruel

1. The committee reviewed the proposal that was recommended by the GECC for the course, SSW:1200 *Mental Health Across the Lifespan* to receive approval for the Diversity and Inclusion category of the CLAS Core GE program. The proposal was well-received by the UEPCC with a short discussion about various aspects of the course organization and assignments. UEPCC was excited about this course being added to the CLAS Core, especially because many students have expressed interest in more courses on the topic of understanding mental health.
2. Next, the committee reviewed a proposal presented by Roxanna Curto, DEO of French and Italian, that simplifies the tracks in the French BA and adds flexibility for majors. Currently, some tracks are not selected by students, which can make course planning and teaching assignments challenging when trying to support all the tracks each year. The rationale for making the changes to the tracks is to simplify major requirements, increase flexibility for students, and facilitate timely graduation. The proposed changes do not impact the access or requirements for language teaching licensure.

Currently there are four tracks in the BA program: French and Arabic, Language, Literature and Culture, and Teaching. The proposal would keep the “French and Arabic” track and merge the three remaining tracks into a single track: “Language, Literature, and Culture”. The overall credit hour requirements of the two tracks will be different, with 33 s.h. required for the Language, Literature, and Culture track in the BA in French and the 37 s.h. required for the French and Arabic track in the BA in French; this is due to the structure of Arabic language courses. The committee discussed the proposed changes. One committee member pointed out that having both colonial and post-colonial perspectives together is an innovative approach to teaching language and culture. The committee approved the proposed changes to the tracks in the French BA.

3. The next presentation was from colleagues in the Department of Dance, Professor and DEO of Dance, Rebekah Kowal, Associate Professor of Instruction and DUS, Kristin Marrs, and Molly Dahlberg, Academic Coordinator. They presented an overview of pandemic impacts on the recruitment and admissions process in the Department of Dance. The department has determined that they have held some admission requirements,

including the live audition requirement, that may be barriers to inclusivity and/or not necessary for the contemporary college admissions environment for their BA program and minor in Dance. They noted that they will still require auditions for the BFA program, but they have already adopted more inclusive practices for those auditions (i.e., video audition options) as well as eliminating some application materials (e.g., letters of recommendation, student essay).

There was discussion with the committee about recruitment strategies, including their newly branded “Hawkeye Dance Days” (events that provide an opportunity to audition for admission to the BFA in Dance program as well as to audition for placement in all dance courses). Many students who major in Dance (either the BFA or BA) also have another CLAS major and so double majors play an important role in the department culture. The committee was very supportive of the changes to the recruitment and admissions process and approved them. These changes will be formally adopted into the catalog for Fall 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Beckman
Associate Professor, German
Director, Division of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures