Diversity Curriculum Review Committee (DCRC)
of the Faculty Senate Curricular Affairs Committee

Minutes
Thursday, October 20, 2016, 3:00 – 4:30 pm
Waterman 427A

Present:
Holly Busier (HCOL), Alec Ewald (CAS), Evan Eyler (COM), Sue Kasser (CNHS), Thomas Macias (CAS; Provost’s appointee), Jonathan Sands (CEMS); Harvey Amani Whitfield (CAS); Jackie Weinstock (CAC appointed); Tao Sun (CALS)

Absent:
Katherine Anderson (RSENR), Joanne Pencak (GSB), Shana Haines* (CESS)

Guests:
Brian Reed, Associate Provost for Curricular Affairs; Wanda Heading Grant, Vice President for Human Resources, Diversity and Multicultural Affairs
Laurie Eddy, Faculty Senate office

I. Review of course proposals.

1. ANTH 089, “Global Health, Development & Diversity.” Professor Jeanne Shea. For the D2 designation. (Materials on Courseleaf) – Motion to approve for D2 designation. Discussion.
   
   Approve: 9 (1*)  
   Oppose:0  
   Abstain:0

2. HST 096B, “TAP: The Gilded Age.” Professor Nicole Phelps. For D1 designation. (Materials on Courseleaf). Motion to approve for D1 designation. Discussion.

   Approve: 9 (1*)  
   Oppose:0  
   Abstain:0
3. **HCOL 086J, “Defining ‘The Other’ in Hitler’s Racial State.”** Professor Francis “Frank” Nicosia. (Materials distributed via e-mail.) Motion to approve for D2.

   Discussion. Substance is clearly sufficient, both in the syllabus and the competencies responses. However, there is some concern about whether the syllabus clearly states the diversity-related objectives of the course. Discussion notes that:

   (a) The “Guidelines for Proposal Development” section of the DCRC website includes the expectation that:

   “…the diversity competencies will be an integral part of a course approved for diversity credit and that this focus will be reflected in the course syllabus, in the objectives as well as the content. The DCRC will look for evidence that the same commitment to diversity espoused in the Diversity Statement is also reflected in the syllabus. […]

   “The syllabus for a diversity course – and indeed, for all courses – should present the general learning goals or objectives for the course. List three to five major objectives that you expect all students to strive for: what will students know or be able to do after completing this course? What skills or competencies do you want to develop in your students? Use active verbs to describe the objectives.”

   (b) The Student Government Association has recently distributed a memo requesting that expanded course descriptions, including the “learning objectives” of each course, be posted for student consideration;

   (c) and the UVM Center for Teaching & Learning includes, among its “Syllabus Guidelines,” a section on “Learning Objectives.”

   Motion Amended to: Approved for D2 with an advisory note that the syllabus should be expanded to name more specifically, for student benefit, the diversity-related objectives of the course.

   **Approve: 9 (1*)  Oppose:0  Abstain:0**

4. **HCOL 086H, “The Texture of Memory,”** Professor Helga Schreckenberger. For the D1 designation. (Materials distributed via e-mail.) Motion to approve for D1 designation. Discussion.

   Discussion includes some of the same concerns as with the previous proposal. Substance is sufficient, but there is concern that the course description and other elements of the syllabus do not clarify and emphasize the diversity-related content and objectives of the course.

   Motion amended, to approve the proposal contingent on revisions to the syllabus. Jonathan Sands moved to amend the motion, to approve HCOL 086H for the D1 designation contingent on revisions to the syllabus. DCRC Chair will
work with the instructor and a revised syllabus will be submitted to the DCRC chair.

**Approve: 8 (1*)  Oppose: 0  Abstain: 0**

II. Discussion of webpage revision, working from draft of new website. Laurie Eddy presented a draft of the webpage, which will be “hosted” by the Faculty Senate site (rather than the Provost’s pages, as is currently the case). A subcommittee will meet with Laurie to continue the draft revision.

III. Discussion of course-review protocol, from previous (2011) draft plan. (Distributed via e-mail.) Alec asked for committee members to review and come to the next meeting prepared to move this forward.

IV. Other business. None at this time.

V. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

*one vote was submitted via e-mail, by an absent Committee member.