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

Minutes

Thursday, April 20, 2017, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.  
Waterman 427A

Present: Holly Busier (HCOL), Alec Ewald (CAS), Evan Eyler (COM), Sue Kasser (CNHS), Thomas Macias (CAS), Joanne Pencak (GSB), Jonathan Sands (CEMS), Tao Sun (CALS), Jackie Weinstock (CAC rep), Amani Whitfield (CAS).

Absent: Katharine Anderson (RSENR), Shana Haines (CESS).

Guests: Brian Reed, Wanda Heading-Grant

The meeting was called to order by the chair at 3:02 p.m.

I. Review of minutes of the March 23, 2017 meeting. The minutes of the March 23, 2017 meeting were approved as written.

II. Review of course proposals.

1. PSYS 095 (TAP): Meanings of Madness, Christiansen (for D2).  
Jackie Weinstock moved to approve this proposal. Jonathan Sands seconded the motion. Discussion.

Approve: 9  Oppose: 0  Abstain: 0

The course PSYS 095 (TAP): Meanings of Madness was approved for the D2 designation.
2. **HCOL 086K: Feminist Theory, Nolfi (for D2).**

Amani Whitfield moved to approve this proposal. Jackie Weinstock seconded the motion. Discussion.

Approve: 8  Oppose: 0  Abstain: 0

The course HCOL 086K: Feminist Theory, Nolfi was approved for the D2 designation.

3. **HCOL 186A: History of Psychoanalytical Thought, Grimmer (for D2).**

Tao Sun moved to approve this proposal. Holly Busier seconded the motion. Discussion.

Approve: 0  Oppose: 9  Abstain: 0

The course was not approved for the D2 designation. The Chair will communicate with the instructor.

III. **Process for assessing existing D1 courses.** The Chair has recently worked with the Faculty Senate staff, and consulted with the Office of Institutional Research, in order to start a survey of all D1 course instructors. However, the General Education Diversity Assessment Committee sent out a similar survey, in March, to a large sample of current D1 instructors. The Assessment Committee has also conducted student focus groups, in collaboration with the Center for Teaching & Learning, and is drafting a report based on this research.

In light of this, and following discussion, the DCRC decides to send out its assessment survey in the fall. The Chair will invite the leadership of the General Education Diversity Assessment committee to an upcoming DCRC meeting in order to improve collaboration.

IV. **Other Business.** Brian Reed informs the Committee that he has been in conversations with Assistant Provost Kerry Castano and Interim Registrar Veronika Carter about the possibility of no longer certifying any Special Topics courses with the General Education designations. No change is imminent, but there is interest in taking a step to eliminate this regular source of confusion. This will also be a topic for consideration by the new General Education committee, as will the matter of retroactive course approvals.

Brian Reed also updated the committee on discussions of a new First Year Experience course. This is an ongoing project; among the possibilities are a zero-credit course; a one-credit course; or a “lab” attached to another course. In the view of the DCRC at this time, such a “small” course does not appear to be a place where a substantive diversity unit could be included, as has been occasionally suggested.

Committee also discusses recent student interest in reviewing the substance of the D1 requirement. Though we do not speak for those students, members of the Committee regularly field inquiries from students who wish that diversity courses generally, and D1
courses in particular, were focused on contemporary issues in American society. Committee members continue to work with these students to hear their concerns and support them, while also trying to communicate that the University’s diversity requirement is based on a broad set of criteria and competencies and a de-centralized structure. Courses in a wide variety of academic disciplines can engage diversity-related problems and fulfill the University’s diversity requirements, pursuing disciplinary objectives that may or may not include attention to present-day social and political issues.

The meeting adjourned at 3:53 p.m. The next meeting of the DCRC is scheduled for May 11, 2017. [Since changed to May 18, 2017.]