

**Minutes of the Academic Affairs Committee
March 7, 2017**

Present: Beth Schiller, Jacob Adner, Sahan Dissanayake, Fernando Gouvea, Lisa McDaniels, Marta Ameri, Karlene Burrell-McRae, Margaret McFadden, Jim Sloat, Nadia El-Shaarawi, Jim Scott. Guest—Tanya Sheehan, Chair of the Art Department.

1. Approval of the minutes.

The minutes were approved as drafted.

2. Consent agenda: course approvals

The following course were approved:

AY3XX: Space, Place, and Belonging

AR2XX: Artist's Book

AR1XX: Visual Thinking

AR2XX: Architectural Design Workshop

ARXXX: Print and Digital Media 1-5

CI 2XX: Advanced Documentary Production

CI 2XX: Visual Storytelling

GE 335: Geologic Field Methods

GO 4XX: Germany and Europe

RE387: Anti-Judaism and Islamophobia

3. Discussion of proposal for changes in the Art majors

Tanya Sheehan was present to answer questions about proposed changes to the numbering system of the Art curriculum and about proposals to make changes both the studio art and the art history majors. She explained the rationale for the 400-level methods course and its relationship to the 100-level methods course. She also explained that it was not a methods course for those just beginning the major, but rather one aimed at people doing senior-level work and so not appropriate for the 300 level. This course would be a co-requisite for the capstone course. While the proposed renumbering system is slightly different than those used in many departments, the committee was persuaded that this proposal made good sense to meet the needs of the Art department and the students who end up in their classes.

Eliminating many pre-requisites is essential to allowing students from across the college to register for art courses. Professor Sheehan agreed to raise with the department the possibility that they reconsider how they treat AR 101 within the art history major (maybe not count it for the major?) and report back.

Sheehan explained that the department was not concerned that a student could complete the major without taking any non-western art; they believe the structure (3x100-level courses) and their advising will prevent that. Further, many courses now include both Western and non-Western material.

Studio Art

Regarding changes to the studio art major, dropping the requirement for AR131 opens up the that major considerably; and that course would now be for non-majors. There would be fewer sections of 131, but other sections of introductory studio courses would be added. Studio majors would be placed in appropriate course at the 200 level. This plan eliminates obstacles to entering the major and gives depth in a medium and breadth across media.

Minor

There are many art minors, but not so many art majors. After discussion, the committee agreed that a smaller minor (6 courses, not 7) was best for students and the department.

The committee's consensus was to approve the proposed changes. Sheehan agreed to work with Margaret McFadden to produce a document summarizing the changes for the April faculty meeting and to report back about the Art department's views of how to treat AR 101.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 at 4:00.