

Academic Affairs Committee Minutes April 11, 2017

Present: Nadia El-Sharaawi, Sahan Dissanayake, Jim Scott, Lisa McDaniels, Barbara Moore, Margaret McFadden, Adrienne Carmack, Fernando Gouvea, Lori Kletzer, Beth Schiller.

I. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

II. Consent agenda: course approvals

After some discussion about specific elements of course proposals, the following courses were approved as submitted, with a few exceptions/questions noted in parentheses:

AR 297: Dutch Art and Exchange in the 17th Century

AR 298: Women, Art, and Agency in the Premodern World, 1200-1700

BI 197 Biochemistry of Food (talk with instructor re: IRB, privacy issues)

ED 331: Curriculum and Methods

SO 2XX: Comparative Perspectives on Inequality (eligible for U)

SO 2XX: Data Analysis and Visualization (pre-req has Q; consider renaming to be specific)

SO 2XX: Religion and Society

EN 297: Border Crossings (rephrase description to qualify for I)

EN 398: Space and Place in Contemporary Native American Literature

GO 2XX: America and the World (is title too general?)

III. Proposal from Economics: Collaborative research experience

The committee further considered this proposal. After extensive discussion, and based on many of the same concerns that were raised in last week's meeting, the committee reached near consensus that we could not approve the new course proposals for the one credit economics research labs. We will invite the department to come back to us next year with a more holistic plan for rethinking their entire curriculum, and integrating the new research model into that rethinking.

IV. Data Science minor proposal

The committee began discussion of the new interdisciplinary data science minor, which combines courses from Mathematics, Computer Science, and Statistics. It offers a good credential to students not already specializing in one of these fields, and good experiences to students interested in how to do applied quantitative analysis. With current staffing, Math and Statistics can handle the anticipated increased demand for the DS required courses; the capacity in CS is yet to be determined. There were questions about double-counting courses, about whether ECON or PSYC stats courses could be substituted, and about the administrative home for the minor; we will take these and other questions up next week.