

## **Academic Affairs Committee—October 9, 2018**

Present: Luke Parker, Dale Kocevski, Sandy Maisel, Steve Saunders, Sam Scott, Christie Woodside, Lindsey Nelson, Barbara Moore, Russ Johnson, Jim Sloat, Loren McClenachan

I. Minutes from the previous meeting (October 2) were approved.

II. Some examples of course proposals were provided to the committee, and the process of proposal review (including a pre-review by the Course Proposal Subcommittee) was explained and discussed. Proposals for “One-time/Experimental” courses do not need to undergo review by the AAC, but the AAC does need to approve any distribution requirement designation. Thus, we needed to decide if two recently proposed “One-time/Experimental” courses should count for the “Literature” requirement.

English 2xx (Genres of the Mystery Novel)  
JP297B (Transrealism: Analysis and Methods)

The committee decided that “Genres of the Mystery Novel” should count for the L requirement, while “Transrealism” should not.

II. Three proposals have been submitted by the Jewish Studies Program, and were initially discussed at last week’s AAC meeting.

1. To redefine the Jewish Studies Program as the Jewish & Middle Eastern Studies Program
2. To establish an official minor in Middle Eastern Studies
3. To establish an official major in Jewish Studies

Russ reported that he has spoken with members of the JS program (and Steering Committee) about some of the questions raised last week by the AAC. It is probably not necessary (or optimal) to have two separate steering committees for a J&MES Program. The proposers felt that a MES minor would indeed be viable at Colby under the current situation of Arabic language being taught only by temporary Fulbright scholars. However, the MES minor would be even stronger if we add a full-time faculty line in Arabic language. The proposers feel that there will be substantial student interest/enrollment in an MES minor, based on recent Independent Majors that have been created in MES and on current enrollments in courses about the Middle East. It is also hoped that a MES minor would help to increase enrollment (which is currently low) in JS courses.

The committee decided to request that the proposers provide some additional information about how the proposed MES minor and JS major compare to those currently offered at other colleges. We will request a few examples of...

a) the structure (requirements etc.) of MES minors at a few others schools (preferably liberal arts colleges) and the number of students who complete those minors.

b) the structure (requirements etc.) of JS majors at a few others schools (preferably liberal arts colleges) and the number of students who complete those majors.