

Academic Affairs Committee—November 12, 2019

Present: Steve Saunders, Erin Sheets, Dale Kocevski, Thomas LaJoie, Genesis Cazales, Lukas Alexander, Lindsey Nelson, Russ Johnson, Jim Sloat

I. Minutes from the previous meeting (October 29) were approved.

II. Seven course proposals were approved.

- A. American Studies 1xx (Social Justice and the City) U, W1
- B. Global Studies 3xx (The Arab Spring) S, I
- C. Global Studies 3xx (Topics in Global Affairs)
- D. History 4xx (Research Seminar: Global Commodities) Exp, H, (not I)
- E. Religious Studies 2xx (...The Bible and Comedy) L
- F. Sociology 298 (Free Speech on Campus) Exp, S
- G. Sociology 298 (Urban Sociology) S, U

All proposals except D were approved as proposed (including all requested designations). The *Research Seminar: Global Commodities* course was approved for the H (History) Area designation, but not for the I (International Diversity) designation.

III. Proposed revisions to the minor in Economics

The Economics department has proposed a change to the name and structure of their minor, which will expand the scope of the minor to more broadly reflect the field of Economics, and add flexibility for students in completing the minor requirements. The current minor (Managerial Economics) is heavily focused on financial markets. The department proposes a more broadly defined minor, to be titled simple "Economics". Requirements for the minor would be

Economics 133, 134; either: Economics 121, 211 and two Economics electives numbered 200 and above; or: Mathematics 121 (or equivalent), Economics 223 and two Economics electives numbered 200 and above. Also Economics 293; or Statistics 212; or Psychology 214 and 215; or Sociology 271; or Government 281; or equivalent. Independent studies and Economics 345 cannot be used to fulfill minor requirements.

The committee voted to approve the new proposed minor. A recommendation will be given to the department that the catalog description of the major requirements be structured (perhaps with two tracks) in a way that is a little easier to interpret. Confirmation will also be attained from the department that no value (to graduates) is lost by giving up the name of "Managerial Economics".

IV. Incomplete Grades

The committee has recently developed a new “Incomplete Request Form”. Some of the wording in this form describing when an “Incomplete” is appropriate (An “Incomplete” is generally granted in cases of significant illness or critical emergency, and for circumstances that were out of your ability to predict or control. An Incomplete is not intended for situations where you have become overwhelmed with the academic workload due to poor time management.), while it has been used as guiding language by the Registrar’s office, the Administrative Committee, and the Class Deans, has not been publicly stated in the course catalog or in faculty or student handbooks. For this reason, and to help raise awareness about changes in the procedure for “Incomplete” grades, it was decided that the new procedure (with accompanying form) be brought to the faculty for a vote. Before doing so, we will consult with the Dean of Students Office about whether some of dates for completing incomplete work (which are included on the form) should also be adjusted at this time.