

Academic Affairs Committee—January 14, 2020

Present: Steve Saunders, Loren McClenachan, Dale Kocevski, Katie Donahue, Sam Scott, Lindsey Nelson, Russ Johnson, Jim Sloat

I. Minutes from the previous meeting (November 19) were approved.

II. Two course proposals were approved.

A. History 314 (Venice from Beginning to End) H

B. American Studies 293 (Methods in American Studies)

III. Revisions to the American Studies requirements.

At its November 12 meeting, the committee formulated a few questions and suggestions in response to a proposal from American Studies to modify its requirements. The program then submitted a revised version of that proposal. The portfolio to be required for the major will now be embedded with the required courses, rather than separate. A course proposal for the new *Methods in American Studies* course (a lynchpin of the new major requirements) has been submitted and was just approved (see above). Each year, the program will provide its majors with a list specifying which courses can count toward the different required “areas” of the major. The committee felt that all of its concerns had been thoroughly addressed, and voted to approve the proposal. It will be introduced as a motion at the February faculty meeting, for consideration by the whole faculty.

IV. Finalization of Incomplete Grades Motion.

The motion to modify and clarify policies for Incomplete grades was finalized. A rationale for the motion was added, explaining problems with the current “system” and how a better process for allowing and managing Incompletes will be better for both students and faculty. The motion includes a shortening of the time available for completing Incompletes, with the new deadlines being the second Monday of Jan Plan (for fall semester), February 28 (for Jan Plan), and June 10 (for spring semester). The motion (including the proposed new form for requesting an Incomplete) will be introduced at the February faculty meeting, for consideration by the whole faculty.