EPC Minutes
2/6/2024

Secretary: Christy Porter

Present:

Jim Barber, Annie Blazer, Ben Boone, Magali Campan, Liz Daube, Jim Deverick, Michael Gaynes, M. Brennan Harris, Oliver Kerscher, Mike Kordosky, Christy Porter, Denise Ridely-Johnson, Cory Springer, Afyer Stump, Laura Zimmer

1. Approval of minutes from Dec. 18, 2023 & Jan. 30, 2024
   a. Minutes approved for both dates.

2. Consent Calendar

ANTH 465	Practicum in Anthropology	course change
CSCI 241	Data Structures	course change
Computer Science	BA in Computer Science [MATH 214 may be substituted for CSCI 243]	curriculum change

   a. Consent calendar approved.
3. Other Proposals

   a. **CSCI 446 Neural Networks for Machine Learning (new course)**. The chair has changed since the proposal was submitted, but EPC presumes the new chair supports it. This course will be taught remotely one day a week, which is not specified in the syllabus. EPC doesn't need to rule on this because it's specific to the current instructor, and not a request for the course to be permanently designated as a hybrid.

      ☐   **No follow-up needed. Course approved.**

   b. **BA and BS in Computer Science (curriculum change).**
      Although two proposals were submitted, the curricular change was the same for both the BA and BS.
      EPC discussed whether these degrees can require two courses to fulfill the writing requirement. There is precedent: THEA requires two writing courses to be passed to fulfill the major writing requirement and PHYS requires all students to pass two capstone courses, each of which is writing intensive. Denise affirms having two required writing courses in a major will not disrupt SACSCOC accreditation, but care must be taken to include them in assessments of writing courses. A question arose about writing courses appearing at the same level

across units, but not specifying what sort or amount of writing is standard to fulfill the requirement. There is no standard sort or amount of writing specified in the university catalog. Requirements for writing are specified in each school and each unit.

EPC requests that the syllabi from the four CSCI courses designated as writing courses include references to students drafting and revising papers with the help of feedback and that these draft syllabi be made available to EPC.

☐ **Jim will provide this information to CSCI and will provide EPC with the draft syllabi including specific information on writing.**

c. **BS in Computer Science (curricular change)**

☐ This is discussed above.

d. **MUSC 208 Experimental Sound Workshop (new course)**
EPC requests additional information to determine whether this course can be repeated although it is not a topics course. It also requests a syllabus to accompany the submitted proposal and clarification on whether it will be a lab, seminar, or other type of course, as the form has all three designated.

☐ **Annie will follow up with MUSC and convey the request for additional information.**

e. **Theater, Speech and Dance (BA curriculum)**
TSD has requested the removal of a list of courses from their curriculum because the instructors are no longer with the university, or they are otherwise no longer being offered. EPC requests clarification from the department on whether the courses are to be deleted from the catalog or only from the THEA major requirements and electives. A related question arose regarding whether the list included courses that, when deleted, would trigger a reduction in credits required for the major from a current 36 credits to 27. Two suggestions were made: add language to the major description specifying students must "take additional credits as needed to reach 36" suggesting a set of electives would be appropriate; and ask THEA to specify the precise number of credits required in the major.
Cory says DegreeWorks can be programmed to count a range of credits counted toward any major. If these changes represent a small

percentage to the credits required, no SCHEV approval is required.

☐ **Ben is already in contact with the chair of TSD, Rich Lowry, to ask that language be added specifying majors must "take additional credits in THEA courses to reach 36 credits." He will also ask whether fulfilling the physical THEA requirement with DANC technique courses means that requirement can be fulfilled with 2 credits.**

4. Old Business - none

5. Oliver's update on the meeting with representatives from VIMS on the Marine Science BS program proposal.
   a. BIOL had a productive meeting with VIMS faculty. MSCI 391 Marine Science Mashup will now be renumbered MSCI 201 and be required of majors. Lowering the number makes it more available to all interested students and better conveys the level of content. MSCI 330 will change its number to 230, which makes it an elective, but additional changes to that course are tabled in MSCI for now.
   b. VIMS is working on how to accommodate all interested undergraduates. Although the new MSCI BS degree would require students to take 7-8 credits of BIOL and ENSP (e.g., BIOL 203 204 and ENSP 101) Oli reports Biology is not concerned with MSCI majors in BIOL courses because it will likely be only about 10 students. EPC discussed whether VIMS faculty should be invited to another EPC meeting for an update on the curriculum, but ultimately decides it would be nice to see a revised proposal to make sure curriculum is reviewed in entirely.

   ☐ **Ben will ask VIMS for a revised MSCI curriculum and bring to EPC for review.**

6. Christy will represent EPC and make the following motion at this afternoon's FAS meeting:

   EPC proposes to change the name of the Global Studies concentration "Russian and Post-Soviet Studies (RPSS)" to "Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies (REES)."

7. New Business? - none

8. Adjourn.