HUMANITIES CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING  
Monday, November 12, 2018 at 1:00 pm in the Governing Council Chamber, Simcoe Hall  
MINUTES

Present

Pamela Klassen (Vice-Dean)  
Deborah Robinson  
Martha Harris  
Kevin Mak  
Christy Anderson  
Christine Babikian  
Joseph Berkovitz  
Erol Boran  
Randy Boyagoda  
Jessica D’eon  
Sharon English  
Geneva Ferguson  
Carol Finlay  
Ken Gass  
Dina Georgis  
Kate Holland  
Yolanda Iglesias  
Tamara Jones  
Peter King  
Dai Kojima  
Terry Lago  
June Larkin  
Ephraim Lytle  
W. Brock MacDonald  
Nakanyike Musisi  
Naomi Nagy  
Cheryl O’Donoghue  
Mirella Pasquarelli-Clivio  
Mary-Ann Pouls Wegner  
Alexandra Rahr  
Nicholas Rule  
Graham Sanders  
Tony Toneatto  
Marie-Anne Visoi  
Ira Wells  
Melody Wu

Call to Order and Vice-Dean’s Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 pm by the Vice-Dean, Undergraduate & International, Professor Pamela Klassen, who welcomed everyone. She expressed her appreciation in seeing departments that did not have items up for review present at the meeting.

1. Report from the Vice-Dean, Undergraduate & International

Vice-Dean Klassen addressed the committee on three items.

First-Year Foundations Council:

She referred to the recent Council of Chairs, Principals and Academic Directors (CPAD) memo that detailed upcoming changes to the existing First-Year Seminar 199 courses. These courses will now be incorporated into the formal curricular governance process. Academic units will have until January 18, 2019 to submit any First-Year Foundations (FYF) seminar proposals to be reviewed at a special Curriculum Committee meeting on February 4, 2019.

A couple of questions were raised regarding the new parameters of these courses, from titles and descriptions to the actual length of courses. Vice-Dean Klassen responded that there are really no limitations regarding the course titles and that during the transitional period, departments would still be able to offer full-year First-Year Foundations Seminar courses. She indicated that she would address issues with respect to the current College One courses at the upcoming College Principals meeting. Vice-Dean Klassen hopes that these changes will spark new meanings for different academic units.
Departmental Curriculum Retreats:

The Dean’s Office is looking to provide resources to academic units that are planning and conducting their curriculum retreats. This is in response to academic units expressing interest in having a broader type collaborative activity.

A member commented that their department is in the midst of reviewing their curriculum and would love to know more about the resources to be provided by the Dean’s Office. Vice-Dean Klassen indicated that additional details would be communicated shortly. She also noted that the exercise of curriculum mapping could help academic units visualize how students progress through respective programs. (Addendum: A CPAD memo and an accompanying Guide to A&S Academic Retreats were circulated on December 18, 2018 to provide further information about academic retreats.)

Spring Governance Deadlines & Late Course Approvals:

Vice-Dean Klassen reminded the committee that the spring round of meetings would be the last opportunity in the academic year for new course proposals to be reviewed and considered for approvals. The majority of the proposals reviewed at the spring meetings are generally related to error corrections stemmed from the February departmental Calendar review. Should a newly-hired faculty member need a new course to teach starting in Fall 2019, that course proposal must be submitted prior to the spring round of meetings. Because of the extent of consultation required, the Dean’s Office discourages off-cycle course approvals.

2. Approval of Minutes of the April 5, 2018 Meeting of the Humanities Curriculum Committee

The meeting minutes were approved.

3. Course and Program Modifications for Abbreviated/Expedited Review

A member sought confirmation that the proposal to modify the breadth category for INI103H1 (Writing Essays) was included in the curriculum committee meeting package reported for information. Members of the Arts & Science Governance confirmed the inclusion. No other issues were raised.

4. Course and Program Proposals for Full Review

Psychology, Department of:

Professor Nicholas Rule, Associate Chair of Undergraduate Studies presented the new course proposal for PSY324H1. He noted that as a result of consultation with the Centre for Ethics, the course title would be revised from “Psychology of Morality” to “Moral Thought and Behaviour.” He also proposed adding “or permission of the instructor” to the course’s prerequisites to better signal to students with a non-psychology background that they might be able to enrol in the course as well. (Addendum: This course proposal was approved after it was presented at both the Social Sciences Curriculum Committee meeting on November 14, 2018 and the Sciences Curriculum Committee meeting on November 15, 2018.)

Germanic Languages & Literatures, Department of:

Professor Erol Boran, Associate Chair of Undergraduate Studies presented the proposals to create three new courses, modify five existing courses and three existing programs. The changes made to the German Studies Specialist were meant to allow students to choose courses more broadly. With respect to the department’s program
modifications, Vice-Dean Klassen encouraged committee members to think about how their courses intersect with other programs, thereby leading to more collaboration in the future.

The proposed creation of GER401H1 (Advanced German 2) was in response to continued student demand for a more advanced language course, while the creation of GER201H1 and GER301H1 would allow the department to better place students at the appropriate level of instruction given the wide spectrum between the existing 200- and 300-level German courses.

Philosophy, Department of:

Professor Peter King, Director of Undergraduate Studies, presented the new course proposal for PHL256H1 (Philosophy in the Age of the Internet). This course proposal was approved.

Drama, Theatre & Performance Studies, Centre for:

Mr. Ken Gass, Associate Director, Undergraduate, presented the proposals to create six new courses and modify five existing courses. The majority of the new courses and course modifications proposed stemmed from the Centre’s desire to restructure the existing design and production courses so that students could opt to follow the design path or the production path in higher years.

In response to the course prerequisite requirements proposed by the Centre for many of its courses, Vice-Dean Klassen stated that the Faculty is moving away from the practice of asking for minimum CGPA and instead focusing on performance in relevant courses so that it would be fairer to students. Mr. Gass replied that the Centre is concerned about the level of commitment and aptitude demonstrated by students looking to enrol in its courses. He felt that by including a minimum CGPA requirement in the courses offered by the Centre, it would signal to students the importance of embracing the field and recognizing the balance between practical training and academic rigour. A member suggested narrowing down the prerequisite requirements to a certain subset of courses. Vice-Dean Klassen indicated that she would like to bring the topic of CGPA in course prerequisites into conversation in the winter or spring round of curriculum committee meetings. All of the course proposals were approved.

St. Michael’s College:

Professor Randy Boyagoda, Principal and Vice-President of St. Michael’s College presented the proposals to create two new courses and modify two existing courses. All of the course proposals were approved.

History and Philosophy of Science and Technology, Institute for the:

Professor Joseph Berkovitz, Director of Undergraduate Studies, presented the proposals to create four new courses and retire one course.

With respect to the new HPS325H1 (Modern Science and Holy Texts) course proposal, Professor Berkovitz confirmed that the Institute had consulted with the Department for the Study of Religion on potential overlap and that the approaches to the subject matter would differ between the two academic units.

Noticing the lack of prerequisite and recommended preparation courses proposed for the new 300-level courses, Vice-Dean Klassen encouraged the Institute and the committee by and large to provide some specificity to attract the appropriate students and to better inform students of the expected preparation. No further action was carried out based on the suggestions. All of the course proposals were approved.
New College:

Professor June Larkin, Vice-Principal of New College, and Dr. Tony Toneatto, Director of the Centre for Buddhism and Psychology, presented the proposals to create two new courses, modify one program and 17 existing courses. The re-weighting of the full-credit course in Buddhist Psychology (NEW232Y1) to a half-credit course (NEW232H1) triggered modifications to the existing Buddhism, Psychology and Mental Health Minor, as well as a number of 300- and 400-level Buddhism courses.

With respect to the new NEW422H1 (Caribbean Regionalism) course proposal, a member raised a question about the practice of converting special topics courses into core courses. Professor Larkin responded that her College would test out their special topics courses for some time before determining if they should be converted into core courses. A question was raised about the lack of prerequisites proposed for this course. Professor Larkin indicated that the College would be comfortable with students who have completed second-year courses to enrol in this new offering. (Addendum: After further consultation, it was decided that this course would require the completion of 1.0 full-course equivalent at the 300-level.) All of the course and program proposals were approved.

Slavic Languages and Literatures, Department of:

Professor Kate Holland, Undergraduate Coordinator, presented the proposals to create seven new courses and retire two courses.

The proposed new course in Culture, Society and Politics of the Nordic Region (FIN225H1) would be co-taught by a professor in Finnish Studies and a professor from the Department of History.

With respect to the new SLA224H1 (Russian-Jewish Writing) course proposal, Professor Holland indicated that the course topics might vary each year depending on the instructor. Dr. Martha Harris, Manager of Governance & Curriculum Services at the Faculty of Arts & Science, suggested the department to update the proposed course description to ensure students would be informed about this. (Addendum: After further consultation, the course description was updated with the addition of the line “The works studied may vary from year to year.”)

A member inquired about the content of Russian Modernism, a course proposed to be re-numbered from a 200-level (SLA246H1) to a 300-level (SLA345H1). Professor Holland offered to send this member additional information about the faculty who would be teaching this course. All of the course proposals were approved.

History of Art, Department of:

Professor Christy Anderson, Associate Chair of Undergraduate Studies, spoke to the proposed creation of two new courses.

She requested that the new course proposal for Urban Islam (FAH468H1) be tabled until the winter round of curriculum committee meetings to allow for additional consultation. The department was recommended to consult with academic units such as the Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations and the Department for the Study of Religion.

With respect to FAH408H1 (Women in the Ancient World), the department was advised to consult with the Department of Classics on the proposed course content and the appropriateness of the course title.

Professor Anderson replied that she would bring back both proposals for a second review in the next round of curriculum committee meetings.
Spanish and Portuguese, Department of:

Professor Yolanda Iglesias, Undergraduate Coordinator, presented the proposals to create three new courses and retire one course.

The proposed creation of SPA120Y1 (Accelerated Spanish Through Community Service Learning) would allow the department to better place students having some prior knowledge of Spanish at the appropriate level of instruction. The committee suggested a couple of minor changes to the proposed course title and course description, to which Professor Iglesias agreed. The updated course title would be Accelerated Spanish Through Community-Engaged Learning, and this course would be a combination of SPA100Y1 and SPA220Y1 into one year. Professor Iglesias also confirmed that students who have completed SPA120Y1 would be eligible to enrol in SPA320Y1 (Advanced Spanish).

SPA489H1 (Latin American Transculturations) would be offered as an additional 400-level capstone course for students enrolled in the department’s Spanish programs. All of the course proposals were approved.

Classics, Department of:

Professor Ephraim Lytle, Undergraduate Coordinator, presented the proposals to create two new courses. A member raised a question about the proposed instructional hours for both CLA210H1 (Greek and Roman Archaeology) and CLA215H1 (Classical Warfare). Professor Lytle confirmed that the majority of the CLA courses have 36 hours of instruction. Both course proposals were approved.

History, Department of:

Professor Nakanyike Musisi, Acting Associate Chair, Undergraduate, presented the proposals to create eight new courses, modify two existing courses and retire 13 courses.

Professor Musisi summarized the four criteria her department used to determine which courses to retire:

- If a course has not been taught in a long time;
- If an instructor of a course has retired with no immediate replacement;
- If an instructor will not teach the course again (going in a different direction);
- If a course is not regularly taught by faculty who would bring stability

The proposed creation of HIS108Y1 (What is History?) was in response to changes in the history discipline and changes in the student population, as not all students have a history background. The new HIS268H1 (Law and History) course would eventually pave the way to the proposed creation of a Minor in Law and History.

With respect to the HIS108Y1 course proposal, Vice-Dean Klassen asked if the department would be open to offering this course as a half-credit version instead. Professor Musisi responded that it might be possible if this course would fill a different role. She was encouraged by Vice-Dean Klassen to explore this option further.

Vice-Dean Klassen also inquired about the lack of prerequisite and recommended preparation courses proposed for new 300-level courses such as HIS329H1 (Central Middle Ages (900-1200)), HIS384H1 (The Baltic Sea Region from the Vikings to the Age of Nationalisms), and HIS386H1 (Fascism). Dr. Martha Harris offered to work with the department further to update the relevant information (Addendum: After further consultation, the prerequisite requirement of “9.0 FCE including 1.0 FCE in HIS courses” was added to HIS329H1, HIS384H1, and HIS386H1. In addition, the prerequisite requirement for HIS371H1 (Canadian Political History) was revised to “HIS264H1 or HIS263Y1.”) All of the course proposals were subsequently approved.
Women and Gender Studies Institute:

Professor Dina Georgis, Undergraduate Coordinator, presented the proposals to create two new courses and retire one course.

In response to the new WGS381H1 (Black Britain: Race, Gender and Entangled Diasporas) course proposal, Vice-Dean Klassen indicated that it would be beneficial for the Institute to consult with the Centre for Diaspora and Transnational Studies given the course’s emphasis on transnational feminism. In addition, she suggested adding a general prerequisite requirement provide a better indication of potential academic expectations to students. (Addendum: After further consultation, the recommended preparation for both WGS381H1 and WGS382H1 (Decolonial Aesthetics and Indigenous Futurities) was changed to “WGS160Y1 and completion of at least 4.0 FCE.”). All of the course proposals were subsequently approved.

English, Department of:

There was no one from the department to speak to the proposals to modify two existing courses and retire two courses. These proposals were approved, with Vice-Dean Klassen’s noting it as an exception.

Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, Department of:

Professor Mary-Ann Pouls Wegner, Undergraduate Coordinator, presented the proposals to create five new courses and modify one existing course.

With respect to the new NMC358H1 (Gender and Sexuality in Modern Arabic Literature) course proposal, comments were raised about the difficulty to code and enforce the proposed prerequisite requirement of “3 FCEs in Humanities” in student information systems such as Degree Explorer. Professor Pouls Wegner indicated that she would consult further with the Enrolment and Records team in the Office of the Faculty Registrar on implementation issues.

For the new course, The Archaeology of Death, Professor Pouls Wegner accepted the suggestion of amending the proposed course code of NMC470H1 to NMC474H1, as the former course code is currently assigned to an existing course. All of the course proposals were approved.

East Asian Studies, Department of:

Professor Graham Sanders, Undergraduate Coordinator, presented the proposals to create 11 new courses, modify three existing courses and retire two courses.

The new course proposals for EAS202H1 (Modern Chinese Culture), EAS203H1 (Modern Japanese Culture), and EAS204H1 (Modern Korean Culture) generated discussion on the perception of and practices surrounding special topics courses. Some of the points of consideration included the risk of overlap between topics and existing course offerings, late faculty hires and their teaching needs, as well as students’ ability to distinguish between core courses and topics courses with the proposed 200-level course codes. Vice-Dean Klassen suggested holding these three course proposals for further advisement. All other course proposals were approved.
5. Other Business

Vice-Dean Klassen noted that the Dean’s Office had approved a course that was part of the Academic Bridging Program in late Summer 2018. Professor W. Brock MacDonald spoke briefly about WDW105Y1 (Topics in Indigenous Cultures and Societies). Students would need to earn a grade of 63% in order to be eligible to transition into degree studies in the Faculty of Arts & Science.

Vice-Dean Klassen reiterated that the Dean’s Office discourages course approvals during the summer but does encourage departments to bring forth questions about plans for the coming year. She encouraged the committee to contact her office with questions about the departmental curriculum retreats and the First-Year Foundations seminar courses.

6. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 3:04 pm.

Minutes prepared by Kevin Mak, Curriculum and Governance Assistant, Faculty of Arts & Science