

Curriculum Committee Meeting, October 14, 2009

Members Present: Sergio Quesada, Leara Rhodes, Paul Duncan, Susan Thomas, Mark Anderson, Kathleen Schmaltz

1. The committee reviewed the course description and syllabus for SPCM 3820, which is being considered for inclusion in the LACS Track. The course's instructor, Tina Harris, attended the meeting and provided an overview of the lectures, readings and assignments included in the course. Following a brief discussion it was agreed that this course should be approved for inclusion in the LACS degree program when it is taught by Dr. Harris in Costa Rica.
2. Kathleen informed the committee that the process for (1) removing ROML2550 from the track and (2) including the new PTSP2550 course as a choice in Area VI of the major requirements has been initiated. These changes should be reflected in the spring bulletin.
3. The committee reviewed 2 new courses for inclusion in the Track, AFST4200 and HIST4240. It was agreed that a recommendation to the executive committee to include HIST 4200 should be made. Kathleen will obtain a copy of the syllabus for AFST 4200 so that members can re-examine this course at our next meeting with additional information.
4. A draft of the new service learning course that Kathleen put together was provided to all members. The need for such a course was revisited. Committee members will look over the draft and provide feedback to Kathleen electronically.
5. Learning outcomes assessment was discussed. The committee agreed that the best way to assess the LACS majors is to have them complete and submit a portfolio during their final semester that includes: a paper in their major language; a paper from another relevant discipline; evidence of community involvement; and proof of satisfactory language competence. Kathleen will collect the portfolios and develop a rubric for assessing them. The curriculum committee members agreed to conduct the portfolio assessment.
6. Committee members were provided with a list of graduate level area studies courses and a draft for a new graduate certificate program in Latin American Studies developed by Doris Kadish. Due to time constraints, everyone agreed to review the draft and bring feedback on it to our next meeting.
7. The next meeting is scheduled for Nov. 11 at 11:30.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathleen Schmaltz