

Curriculum Committee Minutes

Sub-Committee of the Academic Senate

Spring 2022 Semester

Meeting Thursday, February 10, 2022 2:15 pm via Zoom

<https://marin-edu.zoom.us/j/91973671799>

Present: Sheldon Carroll, Gina Cullen, Luna Finlayson, Rachel Klein, Bob McCoy, Sara McKinnon, Lori Michelangelo; Colleen Mihal, Steve Newton, Patty O'Keefe, Heather Rahman, Kathleen Smyth, Cari Torres, Grace Mengqi Yuan, Holly Shafer; Logan Wood

Standing Items

1. Call to Order at 2:16 pm via zoom
2. Approval of the agenda
 - Motion to approve: Kathleen Smyth
 - Second the motion: Heather Rahman
 - Vote: approved
3. Approval of the minutes
 - Motion to approve: Bob McCoy
 - Second the motion: Logan Wood
 - Vote: approved
 - Abstained: Kathleen Smyth, Luna Finlayson

Discussion Items

1. New Communication course proposal – second discussion
 - Luna asked how SAS and/or Psychological Services could be involved; how to deal with the emotions that might come up in this class. Luna was concerned when high anxiety and other acute issues come up in the classroom.
 - Patty talked about the difference in anxieties, and elaborated on the state vs. trait anxiety. She

appreciated the concerns that Luna voiced. She expected that students would get support via small group coaching and relating to peers that have similar anxiety or experiences. She would like counselors or SAS counselors to visit the class.

- Colleen added that a few students needed the added support from therapeutic/clinical counseling or help outside of classroom. A lot of students who have public speaking anxieties could benefit from the supplemental course.
- Patty observed that a portion of students have more anxiety than the rest of the students. On average 3-4 students per class.
- Colleen talked about the structure of the class. Usually, it takes three weeks for students to deliver speeches. This supplemental course would add time for students who need more strategy or practice to build confidence in public speaking.
- Luna asked for the clarification. Is the course more of a group session or coaching.
- Patty said self-disclosure was inevitable. She described an incident when a student needed more help and how she handled it. There are strategies to mitigate anxiety. Let students practice more and hear relatable experience from peers will help. Instructors are not capable for being psychiatrist or psychologist for the students, but they will be there with the students when things happen.
- Logan asked whether students would self-select for the class. Patty answered it would be 100% self-select. Colleen added that the students could get inspired by hearing other's stories; have more opportunities to speak in public, like what MAPS or EMOJA does.
- Gina suggested to make it a lab course instead of a lecture. Patty did not reject the idea. She said that the most important thing was for students to have their space to practice and get support.
- Lisa talked about repeatability. Patty did not know if students would need more than once of this course.
- Luna asked about categorizing the course as "special" (CB 13). Patty said that "special" meant she wanted SAS counselor involvement. Luna suggested further coordination about the logistics of the course as there is only one SAS counselor on campus now.
- Patty will be on sabbatical from March 1 to June 1. She is still available for questions next week.

Discussion continued after Colleen and Patty left.

- Luna still had her concerns and she was not clear about how the class would be shaped. All the parties mentioned in the proposal, the COMM department, Psychological Service and SAS, should be at the table and talk about how it would go.
- Bob also voiced his concerns similar to Luna's. He loved the idea but worried that students with diagnoses might be in the class with the communication instructors who are not qualified to address the psychological issues. Maybe the instructor should be a psychologist. The Challenge would be handling a diverse group with diverse issues in the same class.
- Lisa commented that instructors had to assess constantly in a performance class. Instructors have the tools and ability to see the flags and be able to unplug and bring in the proper help.
- There was a lengthy discussion over the concern that the course would target students with high anxiety and put them together in a classroom. They recognize that anxiety is an element in any public speaking course and so it would naturally emerge as a topic. The concern is around labeling the course as one that focuses on dealing with anxiety rather than practicing public speaking and building skills in that area. Targeting students with mid to high anxiety and grouping them together seems like it could lead to more of a therapy type of situation.
- The CC recommends:
 - 1) Focus more on skill building and coaching rather than dealing with anxiety and allow that to be integrated more subtly into the curriculum
 - 2) Consider offering as a lab or practicum course
 - 3) Connect with Psych Services and SAS to determine how they might collaborate on the anxiety piece

2. ART Revisions:

ART department presented the overall changes to the ART curriculum in the last CC meeting. Within the scope of the changes, Gina talked about the revisions that Jason Dunn proposed to the ART 175 series. He would deactivate ART 175BCD, and replace with ART 278FMK to renew the primitive ceramics courses to better meet students needs.

Bob McCoy moved to approve the proposal. Kathleen Smyth seconded the motion.
Vote: all approved.

Meeting adjourned at 3:20pm.