
Curriculum Committee Minutes

Sub-Committee of the Academic Senate

Spring 2024 Semester

Meeting Thursday, March 14th, 2024, 2:15 pm

Emergency Zoom link: <https://marin-edu.zoom.us/j/82951617913>

Present in AC 303: Gina Cullen, Luna Finlayson, Mengqi Yuan, Sara Malmquist-West, Cari Torres, Ismael Lara, Kathleen Smyth, Patty O'Keefe

Present in Zoom room:

Bob McCoy – KTD office

Alex Jones – KTD office

Beth Sheofsky – KTD office

Sara McKinnon – remote office

Colleen Mihal – remote office

Lisa Morse – KTD office

Absent: Sheldon Carroll, Jason Dunn

Standing Items

1. Call to Order at 2:17 pm in AC 303
2. Approval of the amended agenda
 - Motion to approve the agenda: Sara Malmquist-West
 - Second the motion: Kathleen Smyth
 - Approved
3. Approval of the minutes
 - Motion to approve: Luna Finlayson
 - Second the motion: Sara Malmquist-West
 - Vote: approved.
4. Public Announcement
 - none
5. Chair's Announcements:

Discussion

1. ETST New Course Proposals – Ismael Lara
 - a. ETST 131- Soundtrack to the Struggle: Hip Hop and the Politics of Liberation
 - b. ETST 133 - Introduction to Asian American Studies
 - Both courses will be 3 student credits; 3 teaching units; lecture type

- face-to-face modality; may develop DE in the future
- Noted under ETST Top Code to meet legislative changes and Ethnic Studies requirements for CC, CSU, and UC.
- Clarified ETST 131 is theoretical, focusing on race, resistance, and social justice through hip hop music and lyrics; it's not a Music course.
- Ismael highlighted the high demand for ETST courses, evidenced by current waitlists.
- He has been admitting students beyond the class size cap but acknowledged it was a labor issue and not a long-term solution.

Discussion:

- Kathleen inquired if the ETST faculty had informed the music department about the proposed course intersecting with Hip Hop for transparency.
- It was noted that for courses to fulfill the Area F/7 Ethnic Studies requirement, they must carry an ETST prefix and be taught by ETST faculty.
- Sara questioned if the new course would count towards GE social science or humanity requirements.
- Sara McKinnon pointed out that ETST 131 would focus on lyrical study rather than music or dance, differentiating it from a Performing Arts curriculum. She also expressed enthusiasm for the reintroduction of an Asian American ETST course she took decades ago at COM.
- Alex Jones and Gina discussed the recent trend of offering Asian American studies in light of the current socio-political climate.
- Lisa mentioned that the DANC department covers hip hop history from a dance perspective and suggested informing DANC faculty about the new course to explore potential collaborative or complementary courses.
- Sara MW highlighted the potential benefit of dual enrollment, encouraging high school students' involvement in ETST studies.
- Ismael acknowledged the comments, ideas, and suggestions shared during the discussion.

2. COMM Curriculum Substantive Changes – Patty O'Keefe and Colleen Mihal

- Discussed updates to the existing Augmentation and Public Speaking courses in response to Cal-GETC standard revisions.
- Mentioned research on course outlines at neighboring California Community Colleges including SRJC, Long Beach City College, and Moorpark College.
- Highlighted the necessity for dialogue with the English department regarding ENGL 150 as a prerequisite.
- Considered the potential need to reduce class sizes due to the introduction of a 5000-word writing requirement.
- Agreed to phase out the old course in favor of the new course, whose outline may be ready by May 1.
- Department faculty will review Oral Communication course requirements, with Colleen noting the department will also evaluate unit values in comparison to the 4-unit ENGL writing courses and practices at other community colleges.
- Colleen proposed submitting COMM 100 for category 1C approval.
- Gina noted the requirement of 1C for all transfer students, marking a change from the current transfer pattern where UC-bound students are not required under IGETC.

Discussion and Comments:

- Beth suggested that ENGL co-chairs and COMM faculty should meet to discuss this matter.
- Kathleen inquired about class size reductions, noting the current size is 28 for COMM and 25 for ENGL courses, and recommended targeting 25. There was a discussion later about class size caps and the suggestion was well received by the committee.
- Colleen mentioned that Patty's class already requires intensive writing and did not anticipate

significant changes to student activities.

- Sara outlined the proposal to include (1) adding ENGL 150 as a prerequisite and (2) developing a new course to replace COMM 104, aiming to reduce student confusion.
- A timeline for these changes was discussed, with Colleen expressing a preference for creating the new course after further consultation with Sara.

Action:

Meeting adjourned at 3:04 pm.