

Minutes of AHSS Chairs' and Directors' Meeting

Friday, September 16, 2011

Dean McCall was unable to attend most of the meeting due to a travel delay. Eleanor McNees presided, with Ginni Ishimatsu in attendance. All the chairs and directors were present except for Naomi Reshotko (PHIL) and Trace Reddell (DMS).

The meeting began with the following announcements:

- Chairs should contact Dean to set up appointments for annual faculty evaluations
- Sarah Pessin's explanation of Holocaust Memorial and its goal of encouraging social justice and DU faculty/student/staff engagement
- Passage by Undergraduate Council of proposed major merging DMS & EMAD into Emerging Digital Practices; passage of Intercultural Global Studies minor
- Study Abroad Fair Sept. 20, 2011
- Greg Robbins introduced Nancy Cochran, Director of Lamont, to the chairs and directors

Course proposals for ENGL 3706, GWST 3950, PPOL 2701, RUSS 1500, and SOCI 2120 were voted on and approved.

Departmental Profile: Scott Philips (Chair, Sociology & Criminology) introduced the new major in Socio-Legal Studies and passed around flyers advertising information sessions. Students may only sign up for this major as a second major. Rob Roberts (Chair, Psychology) agreed to present a department profile at the October 14th meeting

Eleanor McNees discussed assessment of the Common Curriculum piloted this past summer. Of more than 20 courses, only seven were assessed. Chairs expressed a variety of responses to Common Curriculum assessment and to departmental course assessment in general. Following is an attempt to summarize some of the responses and suggestions:

- Since AI: Society and SI: Society courses usually have a mixed audience of students counting the course toward their major or minor and students counting the course for a Common Curriculum requirement, the current rubric does not fit both constituencies. Several chairs mentioned that the comment sections on the assessment form were more relevant than the actual rubric. Others believed the form was too long and should be reduced to one or two pages.
- Several chairs asked about assessing the assessment process for AHSS and Common Curriculum courses. Does University assessment work, and, if not, why? Should a committee composed of equal representation of SOCS and AHUM faculty rework a new document?
- General consensus that one chairs' meeting should be devoted to discussing assessment.
- Eleanor McNees suggested that one SOCS department chair and one AHUM chair accompany her to a meeting with Janette Benson to discuss AHSS assessment.

Faculty introduced their new lecturers, post docs and assistant professors in their respective departments.

Wendy Bolyard from Graduate Studies attended the final part of the meeting with chairs of departments with graduate programs to talk about the new online application process Graduate Studies is planning to implement in October. Several chairs expressed concern that this unveiling of a new process mid-quarter is potentially disruptive to new applicants and graduate faculty. Wendy offered to meet separately with chairs of these departments, especially with Rob Roberts (Psychology). She also announced the Graduate Studies Fair on October 6th from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. in Sturm Law School. Graduate Studies would like all AHSS departments with graduate programs to send a representative.