

Minutes, Department Meeting, Nov 11, 2009

Present: Mr. Olsen, Mr. Clark, Ms. Chirhart, Ms. Foster, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Land, Ms. Ryan, Ms. Phillips, Mr. Fischer, Mr. Giffin, Mr. Hunter (arrived late)

Absent: Mr. Nichols, Mr. Schneirov, Ms. Skinner, Mr. Stofferahn

Minutes, October 12, 2009, approved unanimously (9-0; Mr. Hunter not there yet)

Announcements

1. Mr. Olsen said he will go ahead with the purchase of the new microfilm reader. The machine can capture and send documents as PDFs! There will be a budget for copies. The reader will be placed in a central location (most likely SH 109). Users will sign out a key for SH 109 and reserve the machine via a signup sheet.
2. Ms. Chirhart asked if we could order a different brand of dry erase markers; Ellen will do some research
3. Discussed methods by which to ensure that students enrolled in Hist 402 actually are traveling to Japan. Mr. Olsen said that if Jacques sends someone over to register who is a Hist/SSE major, Ellen will double check w/the student's advisor and make sure that they're in the travel group; if they're not traveling with the group, they may be allowed to take the course but it should be strongly discouraged for HIST and SSE majors.
4. Should Hist 496 (WWII) fulfill students' Wider World requirement? The question will be referred to the curriculum committee which is charged with developing guidelines for the Department's consideration.
5. The Dept. has been asked to help make connections between the new Rural Studies Center and the Center of Local History. Mr. Olsen requested volunteers.
6. Requests for summer and fall schedules will be coming out and are due to Dean's office by mid-January. Send requests for summer courses to Mr. Olsen. There's a need for surveys, particularly on-line surveys, for the summer. Fall courses, despite sabbaticals, should be coverable. Mr. Olsen noted that he would like to schedule two 400-level Wider World courses for the coming (2010-2011) AY and will need people to teach either Asian or African History. Mr. Olsen asked for names of possible adjuncts from IU/elsewhere to teach the courses.
7. Dave McCarter is having open heart surgery Dec 7, he needs a grad student/TA to grade final exams for Hist 201; Brad Crow was suggested.
8. Mr. Land informed those present that he is serving on the strategic plan subcommittee, chaired by Kelly Wilkinson. The subcommittee is interested in developing ways to recruit and retain good faculty, in helping faculty better understand the "millenials and their technology." The CIRT, he said, is particularly interested in figuring out what faculty can learn in an hour or a day to help improve their courses. Discussion followed about the availability of Elluminate in all SH rooms. Mr. Land said that, in addition to software improvements, the subcommittee is also interested in developing ways to help faculty deal with civility issues and other non-bells/whistles issues.

9. Mr. Fischer announced the impending availability of faculty grade distribution lists on the portal. Discussion followed about the consequences of making such data available. Mr. Fischer said the software aggregates all sections over the last 2 semesters and does not show grade distribution for classes numbering less than 10.

Committee Reports

1. Assessment (Nichols): Mr. Nichols (not present) but e-mailed to say that the committee will meet in early Dec.
2. Budget (Chirhart): Ms. Chirhart reminded everyone to use Orbitz for airfare. Faculty can book hotels on their own or through hotels.com. Ms. Foster said arranging student trips cannot be done thru Orbitz or Hotels.com. Mr. Fischer reminded people not to go over their budget allotment when charging directly to ISU (for airfare or if you use hotels.com).
3. Curriculum (Fischer): no report. The committee has been working with the FS submissions.
4. Graduate Committee (Chirhart): The Graduate Committee admitted 4 students, 3 to start to Jan. Mr. Olsen is going on a recruiting trip to Hanover College.
5. Retention/Tenure (Giffin): no report

Old Business

Foundational Studies: Historical Studies will be reviewed on Friday. Mr. Olsen received positive feedback about the Department's submissions. The General Education Council seems committed to approving a course submitted by a department other than History. A long discussion followed about FS. Mr. Olsen said that Mr. Stofferahn submitted a revised version of Hist 101 in the Global Diversity category and that the AFRI 212 and 222 syllabi are almost done and look great.

New Business

Submission of upper division electives: the courses are supposed to be writing intensive, interdisciplinary, and should have a contemporary application. Mr. Olsen said that two obvious choices among current Gen. Ed. courses would be Hist 336 (The 1960s) and Hist 320 (Comparative Slavery). Mr. Olsen said that Mr. Schneirov is willing to submit Hist 336. Depending upon how many the Dept. wants to submit, there are several options: Blues and Rock Course/African American music, a general topics course that rotates, etc. Mr. Hunter asked what the argument would be for submitting fewer courses, for being more cautious at this stage? Mr. Olsen responded that the Dept. doesn't want to stretch itself too thin. Discussion followed about whether, ultimately, FS or the Dept. will control FS course scheduling. Mr. Hawkins asked if there was a down side to submitting Hist 345 (Latin America)? Mr. Olsen said no down side. There was general agreement that 345 was also a good choice. Mr. Land asked when we might submit again if we don't do it now and Mr. Olsen said that in three years, when another round of review and the opening up of new courses occurs. Mr. Olsen said there is no real urgency and suggested that the Dept. submit three or four obvious courses. Ms. Chirhart suggested that the Dept. submit Hist 320 Comparative Slavery, Hist 336—1960s, and Hist 345 Latin America.

Ms. Chirhart asked if there was any down side to submitting three in terms of enrollment. Mr. Olsen said the Dept. will continue to lose enrollment but that the Dept.'s long-term future will probably be less and less tied to the traditional surveys in Historical Studies. More double majors and minors may offset some of the losses, as will possible changes in Education degree requirements. Mr. Hunter asked Mr.

Clark whether there was anything new to report about changes in the Ed. requirements. Mr. Clark said St. Superintendent Bennett “made it out alive” of the last meeting he attended at which there was some discussion about a possible content exam but that we probably won’t know anything until Jan/Feb. Mr. Fischer said that school principals will likely set the bar for requirements. Mr. Clark said the State has Hist/Geog/Econ majors in mind (rather than social studies majors). Mr. Clark suggested one possible change in the major would be to increase to 51 hours w/12 outside the dept. and said that, if students take 305 and 9 hrs in something else then the Dept. could provide better content and would serve the non teaching majors by essentially forcing them to do a minor. He said there is a long-term incentive to minor based on licensure in under-taught areas. Ms. Foster added that some “credentials” programs require 18 hrs in pedagogy alone.

Mr. Hunter made a motion that the Dept. submit Hist 320, Hist 336, and Hist 345 as FS Upper Division Integrative Electives. Mr. Land seconded the motion. Ms. Foster asked if a course is now in FS, can we offer it at our own discretion or does it have to be approved by FS? Mr. Olsen said the cover sheet is designed to offset that type of formal approval. The Gen Ed Council, he said, has been calculating how many courses to approve based on projected seats needed/filled, etc. The motion passed unanimously (9-0-0; Ms. Ryan approved but her vote was not counted in the total until the merger of Afri/Hist is officially approved at all levels).

Mr. Fischer asked if we could limit students to taking one section of Hist 113 should we start to offer several versions of the course. Ms. Foster responded, no, we can’t limit them to one section/version. Mr. Olsen suggested that we require Hist majors take all of their required courses here at ISU. We are, after all, in charge of the curriculum. Ms. Foster suggested that majors or minors who wanted to take a 113 section could theoretically enroll in HIST 395 (independent study) and then attend all 113 lectures and meet with the faculty member on a weekly basis to get a more rigorous version of the 113 course.

The meeting adjourned at 4:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Phillips