

**CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**  
**Approved December 8, 2016**

**Members Present:** Ms. Aida Brhane, Dr. Nathan Carter, Mr. Paul Chapman, Ms. Mary Charleza, Ms. Carolyn Davis, Dr. Maggie Emblom-Callahan, Dr. Pamela Hilbert, Dr. Julie Leidig, Dr. Anne Loochtan, Mr. Frederick Markham, Dr. Jimmie McClellan, Dr. Mary Mosely, Dr. Sheri Robertson, Ms. Maryellen Ryan, , Mr. Fernando Seminario, Dr. John Sound, and Mr. Scott Wood.

**Members Absent:** Ms. Mitra Jahangeri, Dr. Diane Mucci, Dr. Mel Schiavelli and Mr. Bernard Schmidt.

**Guests:** Mr. Anwar Ahmad, Dr. Ivy Beringer, Mr. Bryan Brown, Mr. Geoffrey Brown, Ms. Jennifer Daniels, Dr. Martha Davis, Ms. Celeste Dubeck-Smith, Mr. David Epstein, Ms. Paula Ford, Ms. Lucy Gebre-Egziabher, Dr. Katherine Hitchcock, Ms. Susan Johnson, Ms. Sharon Karkehabadi, Dr. Burton Peretti, Mr. Chris Stallings.

**Minutes of the October 27 Meeting**

Minutes of the October 27, 2016 meeting were approved as distributed.

**Cinema**

With the support of their deans, Photography faculty, local film production professionals, and senior institutions, the Communication Studies & Theatre faculty propose a new AFA in Cinema. Mr. David Epstein (Dean, WO), lead dean for the Associate of Fine Arts effort, introduced his co-presenters and expressed his enthusiasm for the proposed program. It is designed to prepare students for transfer into BFA programs in film or cinema. Mr. Bryan Brown (CST, WO) explained that students often collect courses but do not develop a portfolio. Students currently rely upon the Fine Arts or Liberal Arts AA degrees, and the General Studies AS degree to amass a collection of film courses, but these programs do not provide the guidance needed for course selection and do not include portfolios. There are three challenges for students aspiring to transfer to four-year film programs: curricula, transfer, and program admission standards. This proposal responds to increased student demand on NOVA campuses. In addition to creating a guided pathway, the proposed program is designed to have an advising component with faculty meeting with their advisees monthly.

Ms. Lucy Gebre-Egziabher (CST, AL) explained that the program has been designated as “Cinema” rather than “Film” because Cinema is the name of the field of study. Film and/or video are mediums used in Cinema. Cinema is a broad term used to describe the various mediums and practices for the creation and delivery of motion pictures. Cinema is often applied to the traditional film industries around the world that produce theatrical releases. However, cinema is also applicable to the various video content industries from online streaming video, television, and advertising, to name but a few. Students who successfully complete a film production program develop skills which help them to gain employment in a variety of media industries. Dr. McClellan said he hired Ms. Gebre-Egziabher to establish a film program. Dr. McClellan announced that the AFA has exploded across the state.

Although lacking a cinema program, NOVA has offered film courses for quite some time. The majority of the analytical and theoretical foundation courses are taught at NOVA’s five comprehensive campuses. These courses have served to build and gauge interest in a film program. Most of the production and skills-based courses are currently taught at three campuses: Alexandria, Annandale,

and Woodbridge. The practical skills learned through the production courses are equally applicable to various career fields and transfer easily to many professional settings in mass communication vocations. Through the foundational theory-based courses, students develop the tools necessary to analyze and understand the nuances about visual representation of the art of cinema. Students develop invaluable writing and critical thinking skills that are applicable to a variety of careers inside and outside of the film industry. The portfolio built throughout the Cinema program will help students gain admission to selective BFA programs and can be used to help assess the program.

Most of the required courses for the Cinema AFA are currently taught on all of our comprehensive campuses. The general education courses and CST 151 are also taught through ELI. The production courses are currently offered at the Alexandria, Annandale, and Woodbridge campuses. Other campuses are preparing to expand their offerings to include these courses if justified by enrollment demands. One new-to-the-VCCS elective course in Directing will be proposed. Dr. Loochtan suggested that in addition to the general education courses, many specific core courses could be mapped to the general education goals.

The majority of the students who successfully complete will transfer to film programs in four-year institutions. However, the AFA program provides students with skills required by media industry employers within the region. Students who desire transfer benefit from the collaborations between NOVA and transfer institutions and Guaranteed Admission and Articulation agreements. The General Education courses and most core courses (CST 151 and CST 152, ART 160 and ART 161) are also accepted for transfer to the institutions with film programs. The PHT courses are currently accepted at George Mason University. Mr. Epstein said that George Mason University, Old Dominion University, James Madison University, Hollins University, and American University all have expressed great interest in the proposed program. The talks with them as the program was developed have helped NOVA establish excellent relationships with them and their representatives will participate in the portfolio review process.

Because it uses existing courses that will continue to be offered regardless of approval of the new program, the Cinema AFA will require no new faculty, facilities or equipment unless the program grows sufficiently to justify them. Mr. Brown stated that all full-time and adjunct faculty teaching the courses in this program already are credentialed to teach transfer courses. Faculty keep up with new technology, both buying it and learning to use it. In addition, the faculty take students to production houses. Mr. Epstein reported that Ms. Gebre-Egziabher and Mr. Chris Stallings (Coordinator of NOVA Gold and PIER, CST instructor, WO) have huge followings.

After completing the BFA, quite a few former NOVA film students work in Los Angeles as actors, cinematographers and editors. However, most stay here in jobs for other industries. Mr. Stallings reported that the next day his students would be working for NASA. Some students have created music videos. Dr. Loochtan also said she could think of numerous projects that would assist NOVA such as little demo videos for her programs, or videos to describe health careers. Mr. Stallings' students have done them for Man Up, tutoring, and more.

At this time, the program is proposed only for the Alexandria and Woodbridge campuses because they have everything needed to launch the program and because offering the program at additional

campuses could cause course enrollment to be spread too thinly across multiple campuses. However, if enrollment is solid, other campuses may ask to also offer the program in future years.

Dr. Hilbert, who chairs the arts-related Learning Council, reported that the Council supports this proposal.

The Curriculum Committee approved the Associate of Fine Arts in Cinema.

### **Revise the Automotive Technology AAS and its Emissions Specialization**

Mr. Geoffrey Brown (AUT, AL) presented the Automotive faculty request that the requirement for PED 116 be removed from the Automotive Technology AAS and from its Emissions specialization.

Mr. Brown explained that the lab portions of Automotive (AUT) courses are physically demanding and students are taught how to handle heavy items without hurting themselves. The AUT courses all emphasize safety and proper protocols that will allow automotive professionals to continue to work in their very active field for many years.

Removing the PED course would lower the required credits from 68-69 to 67-68 for the Automotive Technology degree and from 67-68 to 66-67 for the Emissions specialization. This is desirable as it lowers the cost a bit and because the Chancellor's target for AAS degrees is to require no more than 67 credits.

Dr. Mucci assured the committee that the proposal was approved by the faculty and deans at both Alexandria and Manassas Campuses. In addition, the Automotive Technology Advisory Committee approved the change at its September 2016 meeting.

The Curriculum Committee approved the removal of PED 116 from the Automotive Technology AAS and its Emissions specialization.

### **Revise the Early Childhood Development AAS**

Ms. Susan Johnson (CHD, LO) presented the Early Childhood Development Cluster proposal to remove PED 116 and the PED/RPK activity elective from the Early Childhood Development AAS degree. This recommendation comes after much discussion, and despite the faculty's conviction that health and physical activity are important to the well-being of all people and that this is particularly important in the care and education of young children. The faculty reviewed the program and determined that it includes two courses which provide opportunities to discuss and participate in health and movement activities: EDU 235-Health, Safety and Nutrition and CHD 145-Art, Music and Movement. Also, there are strong messages throughout the program about the importance of health and activity to the growth, development and education of children. Students are given the opportunity to reflect on their own health and activity as models for children. The faculty propose this change both to be consistent with other VCCS colleges with the Early Childhood program and to reduce the total credits required for graduation from 67-68 to 65-66.

Dr. Ivy Beringer (Dean, AL) and Dr. Katherine Hitchcock (Dean, LO) conveyed the deans' support for the proposal.

The Curriculum Committee approved the removal of PED 116 and the PED/RPK activity elective from the Early Childhood Development AAS, to be effective Fall 2017.

### **Revise the Computer Science AS**

Ms. Celeste Dubeck-Smith (Dean, AN) and Mr. Anwar Ahmad (CSC, AN) presented a proposal to revise the Computer Science AS curriculum. The Computer Science cluster and their academic deans have, after a great deal of thought, found a way to address the issue of hidden prerequisites in the Computer Science AS. The degree currently requires MTH 173 Calculus with Analytic Geometry in the first semester. However, many Computer Science students need to take precalculus before they are ready for calculus. Thus, financial aid problems have arisen.

Mr. Ahmad explained that to remedy this situation, the faculty propose adding the 5-credit MTH 166 Precalculus with Trigonometry and removing PED 116 and the 1-credit General Education Elective to help make room for it. This brings the program to a total of 63 credits, which is the maximum allowed for AS programs. Students may substitute MTH 163 and 164 for MTH 166 if necessary, but these cannot be incorporated into the program proper as they would increase total required credits to 64. This option is included under footnote 7, though, so that it is clear that the courses may be substituted and paid for with federal grants. Students who place directly into MTH 173 are directed to take additional transferable courses instead of Precalculus.

The faculty also propose making the second English course a choice between ENG 125 and ENG 112. Currently ENG 112 is required but ENG 125 is recommended for transfer to Mason.

The Curriculum Committee approved the addition of MTH 166 Precalculus with Trigonometry and the removal of PED 116 and the 1-credit General Education Elective from the Computer Science AS, to be effective Fall 2017. The Committee also approved allowing students to choose ENG 125 or 112 as needed for transfer to their senior institution of choice.

### **Revision of the Science AS**

Ms. Dubeck-Smith stated that the academic deans for the Science AS and its Mathematics specialization propose adding “or ITE 115 Introduction to Computer Applications and Concepts” to the CSC 110 Introduction to Computing requirement. They also recommend adding a footnote stating that ITE 115 is recommended for students considering transfer to George Mason University. Many students and advisors ask to substitute ITE 115 for CSC 110 because ITE 115 transfers to George Mason University, but CSC 110 does not.

The other AS programs already address computer competency by requiring ITE 115 or offering students the choice of ITE 115 or CSC 110, or requiring a different course altogether.

The Curriculum Committee approved the revision of the Science AS and its Mathematics specialization to allow ITE 115 as a choice for CSC 110, to be effective Fall 2017.

### **IT Credit for Military Occupational Specialties**

Dr. Robertson explained that the Credit for Prior Learning Committee recommends approval of the IT Cluster's proposal to give credit for prior learning (CPL) for several Navy MOS; these are in addition to the CPL already approved for several Marine Corps MOS (as outlined in the Credit for Prior Learning Manual). IT Cluster Chair Paula Ford (IT, WO) provided an overview of the process used by NOVA faculty to review the MOS and map them to NOVA credits. Ms. Ford received the documentation directly from the textbooks, syllabi, exams, worksheets, and approximately 50-page course content summaries. The MOS information must match at least 80% with the NOVA course information for a course equivalency and credit map to be identified. Using this documentation, she trained additional NOVA IT faculty who evaluated and mapped the MOS, leading to the recommendations below. The mapping will have to be kept current and students must be advised that MOS more than 10 years old cannot be used.

Ms. Ford noted that work on the additional MOS maps was funded by a Department of Labor Veterans Services Demonstration grant managed by the VCCS. In collaboration with four other VCCS colleges, NOVA has helped develop a military training evaluation process that can be brought to scale to produce a system-wide portal that will act as a resource for military students who are considering college. This portal will align military training with VCCS college credits to help students make informed decisions about which colleges to choose and which degree programs to pursue.

The IT faculty recommend giving course credit for the following:

- NEC 2780 – Network Security Vulnerability Technician
- NEC 2781 – Advanced Network Analyst
- NEC 2790 - Information Systems Technician
- NEC 2791 – Information Systems Administrator
- MOS 2821 - Technical Controller
- MOS 2847 - Telephone Systems/Personal Computer Repair
- MOS 0681 - Information Security Tech
- Cisco Certified Network Associate (Course ID - M09AN31)

The Curriculum Committee approved the granting of IT credit for several Navy MOS (NEC 2780, NEC 2781, NEC 2790, NEC 2791, MOS 2821, MOS 2847, MOS 0681, and Course ID M09AN31), to be effective Fall 2017.

### **Arabic for Heritage Speakers I-II**

Dr. McClellan and Dr. Martha Davis (SPA, AL), who chairs the World Languages Cluster, presented the cluster's proposal to offer a new Arabic course, ARA 2xx-2yy Arabic for Native Speakers. They explained that currently, heritage speakers of Arabic enroll in Arabic 201 and/or 202 in order to meet the requirement for Intermediate world language. Other students in the class feel at a disadvantage when several students already speak the language to some degree. It is not unusual for non-native speakers of Arabic to withdraw from classes feeling that they cannot keep up. However, while they may speak Arabic, heritage speakers may not be able to hold a professional conversation, discuss complex topics or use the right grammar. ARA 2xx-2yy Arabic for Heritage Speakers I-II is designed specifically to accommodate students from Arabic speaking cultures. A similar approach has been successful with heritage speakers of Spanish.

Mr. Chapman asked if the disadvantages outweigh the advantages of cross-pollinating native and non-native speakers of Arabic. It was determined that due to the disadvantages of combining the two populations in one class, it is preferable to separate them if possible.

Ms. Brhne said that Spanish for Native Speakers currently is accepted as a humanities course but not to meet the world language requirement. That would need to be addressed for Arabic as well.

The courses have the support of the World Languages Cluster and their deans. Other VCCS colleges were also contacted; they only offer Arabic through NOVA and did not express any concerns. George Mason University, UVA and Virginia Tech agree that the courses would transfer to meet the requirement for intermediate-level world language proficiency. The email from Mason notes that since Mason also has a large Arabic-speaking population, it plans to develop similar courses.

Arabic for Heritage Speakers I is offered as ARA 295 in Spring 2017 and Dr. McClellan states that it has sufficient enrollment to run.

The Curriculum Committee approved Arabic for Heritage Speakers I-II, to be effective with VCCS approval.

#### **History Discipline Review Readers**

Dr. Maggie Emblom-Callahan offered to serve as one of the Readers for the History Discipline Review Report. Dr. McClellan agreed to serve as the other Reader if no one else will do so.