

**CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**  
**Approved February 7, 2019**

Members Present: Dr. Katherine Burton, Dr. Nathan Carter, Ms. Mary Charleza, Ms. Carolyn Davis, Ms. Kelly DeSenti, Dr. Laura Dickson, Dr. Abbas Eftekhari, Dr. Annette Haggray, Dr. Sam Hill, Dr. Katherine Hitchcock, Ms. Mitra Jahangeri, Dr. Molly Lynch, Dr. Mary Mosely, Ms. Esther Perantoni, Dr. Sheri Robertson, Mr. Bernard Schmidt, Mr. Fernando Seminario, Dr. John Sound and Dr. LeeAnn Thomas.

Members Absent: Mr. Paul Chapman, Dr. Charles Evans and Dr. Mel Schiavelli.

Guests: Dr. Barbara Canfield, Ms. Alyssa Duke, Dr. Nicholas Bomba, Dr. Laura Dickson, Dr. Tim Henderson (from George Mason University), Dr. Pamela Hilbert, Ms. Barbara Hopkins, Ms. Susan Johnson, Mr. Martin Kang, Ms. Sharon Karkehabadi, Dr. Jack Lechelt, Dr. Jimmie McClellan, Dr. Diane Mucci, Ms. Jennifer Nelson, Dr. Shelly Powers, Ms. Gwendolyn Ruffin-Lowry, Dr. Christine Schull, Ms. Christiane Silva, Dr. Alison Thimblin, Ms. Samri Washington and Ms. Ashley Wilkins.

**Action Items**

December 6, 2018 Minutes Approved

The minutes of the December 6, 2018 meeting were approved as distributed.

Air Conditioning & Refrigeration AAS, Certificate and Career Studies Certificate Revisions

Dr. Hill and Mr. Martin Kang (AIR, WO) presented the proposal to revise the curricula of the Air Conditioning and Refrigeration AAS and certificate, and the HVAC-R and Facilities Services Technology career studies certificate. Dr. Hill explained that adding AIR 276 Refrigeration Usage EPA Certification will make program graduates even more employable than they already are. Mr. Kang added that EPA regulations have changed significantly; adding the course will help students understand current EPA regulations. The addition of the 1-credit course would be offset by the removal of PED 116 from the AAS and certificate programs, but the career studies certificate total credits will increase by one credit. The HVAC labs involve a great deal of hands-on activity to simulate both outdoor and indoor physical demands of the field, so AIR students will still receive instruction in physical wellness. In the AAS, the order of AIR 207 and AIR 257 will be switched.

Mr. Kang stated that there is a final exam for those already certified and a certification exam for students who need to become certified. Students must pay to take the certification exam, but students in the program are offered a significantly reduced cost. Once the student is certified, they will be registered through the EPA national registrar.

Dr. Carter questioned whether adjustments will need to be made in the Credit for Prior Learning manual to reflect the revised curriculum. It was unclear how credit for prior learning will be affected so Dr. Carter will follow up with Mr. Kang on clarifying the language in the CPL manual.

Dr. Lynch suggested making ENG 115 Technical Writing an (OR) option in this degree with ENG 111.

The Curriculum Committee approved the proposal to add AIR 276 to the three HVAC programs, to remove PED 116 from the AAS and certificate, to switch the order of AIR 207 and AIR 257, and to add ENG 115 as an OR option with ENG 111.

#### Health Sciences Specialization of General Studies and Discontinuance of the Health Science CSC

Dr. Nicole Reaves (Provost, MEC) stated that the proposed Health Sciences specialization of the General Studies AS will fit with the new pathway structure while allowing a bit of exploration. Ms. Barbara Hopkins (Curriculum Development, CS) stated that each year up to 2,500 NOVA students express interest in competitive MEC programs, but the acceptance rates are very low. Further, many students do not plan to enter MEC programs, but want to transfer to get their Bachelor's degree in a health-related field. For now, the program is proposed as a specialization of General Education because no other NOVA program can accommodate the recommended courses. The program includes the prerequisites needed for MEC programs as well as transfer electives. Unlike the Health Science career studies certificate, students placed in the proposed specialization will be eligible for federal financial aid; if the specialization is approved, the career studies certificate should be discontinued. The new specialization will be offered at all comprehensive campuses. If successful, the college probably will seek a separate Health Sciences AS in a few years.

Health Sciences faculty will inform students of the new program if approved. One of the biggest supporters of this new specialization is George Mason University. Dr. Tim Henderson, from the Department of Health Administration and Policy at Mason, spoke on the importance of educating students of other opportunities outside of Nursing. He stated that he has hoped for years that NOVA would initiate such a program.

Some concern was expressed about students thinking this will transfer to a Biology degree. The catalog will make a point that the program is designed to prepare students for transfer in health-related fields. Ms. DeSenti asked how this will work as competitive transfer since General Studies is not included in most guaranteed admissions agreements. Ms. Jennifer Nelson (University Transfer & Initiatives, CS) stated that four-year partners' concerns with accepting General Education are its flexibility. The proposed specialization, however, is more structured and created specifically to transfer to senior institutions.

There was a question about the reason for a year-long gap between the two required math courses—MTH 154 and 245. Ms. Alison Thimblin (Math Dean, WO) stated that there is no need for immediate recall because Algebra and Statistics are very different types of math.

Both Dr. Shelly Powers (Dean of Health Sciences) and Dr. Laura Dickson (Interim Dean of Nursing) emphasized their strong support for the proposed specialization.

The proposal to initiate a Health Sciences specialization of the General Studies AS and to discontinue the Health Science career studies certificate was approved with two nay votes.

#### Discontinuance of Biotechnology at the Loudoun Campus

Drs. Barb Canfield (Dean, LO) and Diane Mucci (Dean, MA) explained that with the support of the Life Sciences Pathway Council, the Loudoun campus requests the discontinuance of the Biotechnology AAS and the Biotechnology Lab Technician career studies certificate at the Loudoun campus, consolidating it at the Manassas campus. In practice, this is already occurring. There are too few students to make classes run at both campuses. The campuses did try deliberately scheduling classes to avoid competing

with each other, but student interest has steadily declined at the Loudoun campus. The campus lacks a dedicated lab for biotechnology and no longer has a biotechnology faculty member.

The Curriculum Committee unanimously approved the proposal.

#### Early Childhood Development Program Review

Dr. Thomas and Ms. DeSenti, who served as Readers, presented the Early Childhood Development program review report. Ms. Susan Johnson (CHD, LO) and Dr. Christine Schull (CHD, AL) represented the Early Childhood Education faculty. Dr. Robertson asked what the committee members learned and what changes were made as a result. The faculty stated that they learned the value of SLOs and how to properly use the data they acquired. As they completed the first year report, the goals became clearer, allowing consolidation of all the different pieces at the college. Ms. Sharon Karkehabadi (Academic Assessment) stated that overall it was a great example of teamwork. The Readers for the report agreed that the dedication of a small faculty with such a comprehensive program was very impressive. Ms. DeSenti had a few suggestions, such as making sure all dates are correct and providing a little more emphasis on student success in some areas.

Dr. Carter asked if credit for prior learning is still appropriate for the CDA credential. The faculty stated that it is, as long as the CDA credential is valid at the time it is presented.

The Curriculum Committee approved the Early Childhood Development program review and its action plan.

#### Global Understanding versus Non-Western Requirement in the International Studies Specialization

Dr. Jimmie McClellan (Dean, AL) explained why the Liberal Arts Pathway Council proposes to change the terminology used in the Liberal Arts AA International Studies specialization. Currently, it has a “non-Western” requirement. That term is phrased negatively and does not adequately describe the intent of the requirement. The term “Global Understanding” is used by several universities, including Mason, and better conveys the intent to help students gain a world-wide perspective.

There was some concern that students would be confused by the new term. Ms. Nelson agreed that clear advising will be important.

With one nay vote, the Curriculum Committee approved the proposal to change the term “non-Western” to “Global Understanding” requirement in the International Studies specialization of the Liberal Arts AA.

#### Global Understanding Course Choices

With the support of Dr. Pamela Hilbert (Provost, AN) and Dr. Nicholas Bomba (HIS, AN), Dr. McClellan presented the list of courses the Liberal Arts Pathway Council recommends to meet the Global Understanding requirements in the International Studies specialization (which is the only program that has such requirements). He stated that ART 103, HIS 125, HIS 203, HIS 231-232, HIS 251, HIS 253-254, PLS 140, PSY 219, REL 231-232, and REL 233 should be designated as courses that will satisfy the Global Understanding requirements. This is a specific degree requirement—the Council is *not* asking to have the courses approved as general education courses. The courses transfer to meet specific baccalaureate requirements. The International Studies program already allows several of these courses to meet the Global Understanding (non-Western) requirement, but this proposal adds HIS 125, PLS 140, PSY 219 and REL 233, broadening the range of cultures that can be studied, while removing HIS 241 and HIS 255-256.

In addition, the proposal removes the current statement that other courses may be approved by an advisor.

The Curriculum Committee approved the proposed list of Global Understanding courses.

#### Require PLS 241 in International Studies Specialization

Drs. Hilbert and McClellan presented the Liberal Arts Pathway Council's proposal to replace one of the general education requirements in the International Studies specialization with PLS 241 International Relations. This change is endorsed by the Political Science Discipline Group and the Social Sciences Pathway Council.

The Curriculum Committee approved the proposal to require PLS 241 in the International Studies specialization.

#### Social Sciences AS Revisions

Dr. Lynch stated that the Social Sciences Pathway Council recommends replacing a general education elective with a transfer elective in the Social Sciences AS. This recommendation arises from work on transfer pathways. The Council recommends 16 courses in a range of social science disciplines as well as EDU 200. The Council justified each course.

The Curriculum Committee approved the proposal to replace a general education elective with a transfer elective in the Social Sciences AS. The Committee also approved the list of courses recommended to meet the transfer elective.

#### Social Sciences AS Teacher Education Specialization Revisions

Ms. Ashley Wilkins (EDU, MA) explained that the Commonwealth of Virginia recently changed the endorsement requirements for licensure in early childhood education and elementary education. Universities are changing their requirements for teacher education and even creating new programs. Thus, the old state-wide articulation agreement for teacher education is no longer in effect. With the support of the Social Sciences Pathway Council, Ms. Wilkins recommends revising the Teacher Education specialization of the Social Sciences AS, which currently requires two humanities courses. Ms. Wilkins proposes to remove one humanities course requirement, shifting the program pathway to redistribute courses evenly across four semesters. The program still meets the NOVA and VCCS requirement that all AS degree programs must include six credits of humanities/fine arts. The curriculum would align with state endorsements. By requiring one fewer course, the total credits required for graduation would decrease from 63 to 60.

The Curriculum Committee approved the proposal to remove one humanities/fine arts course from the Teacher Education specialization of the Social Sciences AS.

#### History Transfer Electives for Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Programs

Dr. Lynch presented the proposal by the Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Pathway Councils recommending the approval of six history courses to be used to meet the transfer elective in the Social Sciences AS and to meet the second HIS elective requirement in the Liberal Arts AA. These courses (HIS 203, 231-232, 251 and 253-254) are some of the Global Understanding courses proposed earlier. Each course meets the Mason Core Global Understanding requirement and the non-Western Culture requirement for BA students in Mason's College of Humanities and Social Sciences. In addition, they meet degree requirements at some of our major transfer partners.

The Curriculum Committee approved the proposal to use HIS 203, 231-232, 251 and 253-254 to meet the transfer elective in the Social Sciences AS and to meet the second HIS elective requirement in the Liberal Arts AA.

#### Psychology AS

Dr. Lynch presented a proposal to offer a Psychology AS to be offered at all five comprehensive campuses. The proposal has the support of the Social Sciences Pathway Council and the Psychology faculty. It is very similar to the current specialization under the Social Sciences AS, but does not include a course (ITE 115) that is not needed for Psychology transfer. Created after reviewing transfer possibilities, it will allow us to develop slightly different pathways to specific transfer institutions. Students already think they are Psychology majors; under the new degree program they actually would be. There is no additional cost associated with the program, which uses only existing courses, faculty and facilities. If the proposed Psychology AS receives final approval, the Psychology specialization will be discontinued.

The Curriculum Committee approved the proposal to initiate a Psychology AS and to simultaneously discontinue the Psychology specialization of the Social Sciences AS.

#### Information Items

ENG 125 will be removed from all curricula effective Fall 2019.

Dr. Lynch volunteered to be the second Reader for the Music Program Review.

The next meeting will be on May 2, 2019.