

**CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**  
**Approved Minutes from March 1, 2018**

**Members Present:** Ms. Aida Brhane, Dr. Nathan Carter, Ms. Mary Charleza, Mr. Andrew Cornell, Ms. Carolyn Davis, Dr. Maggie Emblom-Callahan, Ms. Mitra Jahangeri, Dr. Julie Leidig, Mr. Frederick Markham, Dr. Jimmie McClellan, Dr. Diane Mucci, Ms. Esther Perantoni, Dr. Sheri Robertson, Mr. Bernard Schmidt, Mr. Fernando Seminario and Dr. John Sound.

**Members Absent:** Dr. Chris Arra, Mr. Paul Chapman, Dr. Pamela Hilbert, Dr. Mary Mosely, Ms. Maryellen Ryan, and Dr. Mel Schiavelli. The MEC provost position is vacant, so no MEC provost attended.

**Guests Present:** Dr. Teba Aljumaili, Dr. Ivy Beringer, Ms. Santwana Das, Ms. Lucy Gebre-Egziabher, Mr. David Epstein, Ms. Megan Hays, Dr. Dahlia Henry-Tett, Dr. Kat Hitchcock, Ms. Barbara Hopkins, Ms. Dominique Hubbard, Dr. Molly Lynch, Dr. Burt Peretti, Dr. Willie Pomeroy, Ms. Mary Ann Schmitt, Dr. Christine Schull, Ms. Melanie Stover, Dr. Georgeana Stratton, and Dr. Susan Thompson.

**Minutes of the December 2017 Meeting**

Minutes of the December 7, 2017 meeting approved as distributed. Dr. Robertson provided an update on the status of previously approved items.

**Discontinuance of RPK-Related Programs**

Dr. Burton Peretti (Dean, AN) presented a proposal to discontinue the Recreation, Parks and Leisure Studies specialization of the General Studies AS as well as the related career studies certificates in Outdoor Recreation and Resource Management and Recreation, Programming and Administration. Dr. Susan Thompson (PED, AN) and Dr. Dahlia Henry-Tett (PED, MA) distributed a handout and indicated that the faculty did not have time to prepare a rebuttal to the proposal.

Dr. Peretti explained that the program has been struggling, despite having had a good presence in the community. There is no full-time RPK faculty member; upon losing the program head in 2014, the campus hired the program's original, previously-retired, program head as temporary faculty. Students have helped with the Ghost Train at a local park each Halloween. The advisory committee includes a George Mason University representative as well as representatives of local parks. All agree that NOVA graduates are well prepared to transfer or to work in entry-level jobs. Dr. Robertson, who attended the advisory committee meeting in Fall 2017, reported that when she pointedly asked committee members if they would preferentially hire our graduates, the answer was "no." In addition, although students are well prepared to succeed upon transfer, Mason grants credit for only some of the RPK courses and only toward one degree concentration. There are insufficient courses to give a full-time faculty member a full work load. Dr. Peretti indicated that if the AS specialization is discontinued, students can prepare to transfer to Mason or Radford University via the parent General Studies degree.

Dr. Thompson stated that she had not had enough time to work on a paper explaining why NOVA should retain the program. She indicated that Leisure Studies is a popular major at four-year colleges and that the program has a good relationship with the Park Authority and other community partners.

She provided examples of program graduates' success. She does not feel that the program has had institutional support. Asked why the numbers are so low, Dr. Thompson replied that it is due to inadequate marketing of the program. Dr. Henry-Tett suggested that the program, currently offered at the Annandale Campus, would be more successful if moved to a campus that is closer to George Mason. She also suggested using money generated by Ghost Train support to offer student scholarships.

Dr. Thompson and Dr. Henry-Tett advocated for continuing to offer at least the specialization to give them time to justify retaining it. Dr. McClellan asked what they would do with the extra time. They would like to market the program more, build a pathway with Mason, relocate the program to the Manassas Campus, talk to a faculty member who already has a relationship with Mason, and research the new VCCS Associate of Health Science degree program initiated by Thomas Nelson Community College.

Asked if there is any evidence that a career studies certificate graduate would be paid more than people who lack it, the faculty said that anecdotal input from employers indicates that some employees take RPK courses for continuing education but do not complete the certificates. The two faculty members would like time to research this. Drs. Thompson and Henry-Tett also were asked how sustainable the program is with such low enrollment and whether they have data on demand for jobs fitting for this program. Regional data have not been collected at this time. Dr. Peretti stated that there was discussion previously about moving to another campus but that idea was dropped. Some classes have been offered at Manassas Campus but were canceled due to low enrollment.

Dr. Thompson has started looking at the current students who may not program place, apply for graduation, or need to complete the degree. Perhaps the *courses* are needed but not the *program*. Dr. Peretti suggested that NOVA investigate sub-fields such as leisure activities for seniors. He stated that the program may have been too focused on outdoor activities when parks and recreation is now mainly indoor activities.

With two abstentions, the Curriculum Committee voted to discontinue the career studies certificates effective Fall 2018. The Committee agreed to defer a decision on the specialization to its first meeting of 2019. The specialization will be on hiatus in 2018-19, with no new students placed into it during that period. The faculty should use the time to analyze the utility of the specialization and research resources needed to address emerging fields.

### **CHD 165 and 265 Revisions**

Dr. Christine Schull (CHD, AL) reminded the committee of the recently-approved changes to the Early Childhood Development AAS made to improve transfer. When degree changed, EDU 200, which requires 40 hours of observation, was added to the curriculum. The program must include 120 hours of observation, which in the past were covered only in CHD 165 and 265. The VCCS work group recommended that the 120 hours be distributed across EDU 200, CHD 165 and CHD 265.

The Curriculum Committee approved the revision of the course descriptions for CHD 165 and 265 to reduce the number of hours of observation required.

### **New ITP Course: Advanced Android Application Development**

Dr. Ivy Beringer (Dean, AL), Dr. Teba Aljumaili (IT, AL) and Ms. Santwana Das (IT, MA) presented the IT faculty proposal to create a new course in Advanced Android Application Development. The course was created after speaking with several companies to see what was needed for Android application development. An existing course covers basic Android app development but the field is moving very fast and industry (including working adjuncts) said the advanced course is needed. An adjunct at Manassas Campus does this in the field and is prepared to teach the course.

The Curriculum Committee approved the new 200-level ITP course in Advanced Android Application Development.

### **Discontinuance of the Liberal Arts AA Psychology Specialization**

Dr. Kat Hitchcock (Dean, LO), Ms. Dominique Hubbard (PSY, AL) and Dr. Georgeana Stratton (PSY, LO) presented the Psychology faculty's recommendation to discontinue the Psychology specialization of the Liberal Arts AA degree. They stated that it is not a meaningful specialization with the extensive world language requirement. Mason has a BA and BS Psychology degree but most students choose the BS. Far more NOVA students complete the Psychology specialization of the Social Sciences AS than the AA specialization.

With two nay votes, the Curriculum Committee approved the proposal to discontinue the Liberal Arts Psychology specialization.

### **Social Sciences AS Revisions**

Dr. Hitchcock presented proposed revisions of the Social Sciences AS. Based on work of the Learning Council, the Sociology faculty propose revising the Social Sciences AS to replace the Social/Behavioral Science elective with a choice of SOC 200 or PSY 200 to facilitate transfer.

Other already-approved revisions (new math requirements of MTH 154 and 251 and removal of PED) will reduce the total credits required to 60.

The Curriculum Committee approved the proposal to revise the Social Sciences AS to replace the Social/Behavioral Science elective with a choice of SOC 200 or PSY 200.

### **Social Sciences AS Psychology Specialization Revisions**

Dr. Hitchcock, Ms. Hubbard and Dr. Stratton presented the Psychology faculty proposal to revise the Psychology specialization of the Social Sciences AS. The revisions are in keeping with the proposed revision to the parent degree (above) and improve alignment with our transfer partners. The changes include:

Those designed to match the parent degree and align with transfer partner preferences:

1. Replace PSY 201 with PSY 200. The PSY faculty previously agreed to phase out the 201/202 offerings in favor of the one-semester 200 offerings. This aligns with how introductory psychology courses are offered and accepted at partner institutions.
2. Change 200-level English elective to a Humanities and Fine Arts elective. This gives the degree more flexibility to meet the requirements of our partner transfer institutions.

3. Using the new math courses, mirror transfer partner preferences. GMU prefers for students to take Calculus, but understanding that not all students will be ready for calculus at the end of the AS degree, math options address preparing them to take Calculus at Mason. These are the math courses previously approved for this program by Curriculum Committee:
4. Add CST 100 and 229 to CST 110 and CST 126 as meeting the oral communication requirement. This change was previously approved for the parent degree by Curriculum Committee.
5. Change Social Science Elective to Social/Behavioral Science Elective.

Changes that deviate from Parent Degree (15 credits total deviation):

6. Change 200-level ENG requirement to 200-level PSY elective. English literature is covered by Humanities and Fine Arts elective and is not required by all transfer partners.
7. Change PSY 202 requirement to 200-level PSY elective. Transfer partners do not accept 202 without 201 (see item #1).

The Curriculum Committee approved the proposed revisions of the Psychology specialization of the Social Sciences AS.

#### **Remove Prerequisites from PSY 216 and 219**

Dr. Hitchcock, Ms. Hubbard and Dr. Stratton presented the Psychology faculty proposal to remove the VCCS-mandated prerequisites for PSY 216 and 219 so that more students can use the courses as social science electives. Faculty report that students who have taken these courses without having first completed PSY 200, 201 or 202 are still successful. Of the 21 sister VCCS colleges that offer the courses, 13 have responded to NOVA requests for support. Ten support the proposal, two do not and one abstained. Mason, Tech and Madison sent letters of support. The two VCCS disapprovals were due to concerns about transfer; letters of support from Mason and VCU indicate that the courses will continue to transfer as long as rigor does not change. Dr. McClellan noted that if we remove the prerequisite as a VCCS requirement, the two dissenting schools can still put it back.

The Curriculum Committee approved removing the prerequisites from PSY 216 and 219.

#### **New CST Course: Film Directing**

With the support of Dr. McClellan and Mr. David Epstein (Dean, WO), Ms. Lucy Gebre-Egziabher (CST, AL) presented the Cinema faculty proposal to create a new course in Film Directing. It is listed as a requirement in the new Cinema AFA program. The course has been piloted at Alexandria, with increasing enrollment. Note that film directing is not the same as stage directing, which is the subject of the only existing Directing course. Initially the course will be offered only at Alexandria and Woodbridge since those are the campuses with the Cinema program. George Mason will accept the course as equivalent to their Film Directing course and will apply it to their Film & Video program. The course has been a special topics course for several semesters.

The Curriculum Committee approved the new 200-level CST course in Film Directing.

### **Revisions of Advisory Committee Policies and Procedures**

Ms. Megan Hays and Ms. Melanie Stover presented a handout of a draft Workforce Development proposal to significantly revise the policies and procedures surrounding the advisory committees required for each applied degree program and each stand-alone certificate. The NOVA Board is interested in finding ways to recruit and maintain truly useful advisory committees. In addition, some local employers have indicated renewed interest in getting involved with NOVA.

Workforce Development staff checked a random sample of advisory committee members to see if the employers they represent are hiring associate degree graduates. Many of them are not listing an associate degree for permanent hires or for internships. Ms. Hays and Ms. Stover suggest that to be eligible to serve on an advisory committee, employers should be actively hiring associate-level employees. This may be problematic because, for example, IT may not be able to hire our students but they offer great guidance on emerging technologies.

The Curriculum Committee expressed concern over a suggestion to require that advisory committee members have at least five years' experience. Requiring 12 members may be too prescriptive.

Suggestions that met with support included:

- Reevaluate membership after two terms but allow member to continue to serve if she fills a particular niche and has been an active participant. Define "active" (remove members who miss two meetings in a row).
- Limit membership of retired members to one per committee.
- It is okay to have someone on the council who is from a university or even a public school academy.
- Change 'advisory committee' to 'advisory board' to make it sound more enticing and important for business partner.
- Hold an "advisory summit" once per year.
- Provide food. Vice President Partridge has committed to paying for food for advisory committee meetings.
- Streamline the application process.
- The general idea is to make the boards something people will **want** to do instead of us having to beg for active members.

This was a discussion item, so no vote was taken.

### **Update on Prerequisite Removal**

Dr. Robertson reported that most clusters did not respond to her message about the computer enforcement of pre- and co-requisites beginning this fall, but a few did request changes.

### **VCCS General Education Goals**

Dr. Robertson provided an update on the development of revised General Education Goals for the VCCS.