Notes from University Faculty Council Meeting Weds 3/27/19

Video link to the meeting: https://ufc.umw.edu/recordings/march-27-2019-ufc-meeting/

We began the meeting by approving the minutes from Feb 27, with some minor corrections.

The agenda order was changed to begin with general education because we wanted to devote as much time as necessary to that topic.

Nicole Crowder answered questions and clarified a few points. I have added responses to questions raised in the online form:

- The credit count (assuming no double dipping on ATCs, starting at 101 for language, no credits for EL/career) is 58. The previous count with the same assumptions is 61.
- The credit count not counting the ATCs and only counting 201 for language, the count is 28. It was 37 before.
- What is the minimum number of credits required by SCHEV/SACS? 30, distributed in certain areas. This would be satisfied with the 34 credits, as ATCs and lower level language courses do not count for the SACS requirements.
- A total of 4 WI and 2 SI courses will be required, but one of each will be in the major (almost all majors already have this requirement). This is an area that was strongly supported by faculty survey and comments, so it is not reduced.
- It is true that a student taking more than one major will need to complete SI and WI for each major.
- Why is the total here not smaller, when that was one of the goals? Faculty response indicates that faculty do not particularly want to cut gen ed.
- The second survey results indicate that an equal number of faculty support language to 202 as support cutting language: faculty are very divided.
- Can courses that students take in Methods also count toward their majors? Yes, as they do now.
- UMW will need to do a very good job of marketing and explaining this gen ed, including to our current students. Students may perceive section 3, Connections, as a check-list. The intent of the Gen Ed Committee is that UMW values these items, and can showcase them better if they are required.
- The addition of a Digitally Intensive course and a Diverse/Global Perspectives course reflects the mission and vision of the institution.
- The intent for each of the courses listed in the Methods of Investigation is for a 3-credit course, as opposed to a 1-credit course.
- Double-dipping is allowed and expected with the across-the-curriculum designations. It WILL be possible to take one course in the area of Art & Literature that is WI *and* Diverse & Global.
- Probable examples of Digitally Intensive courses that are already offered (depending on exact learning outcomes): ENGL 253 Games & Culture; HISP 303 Archives & Society; MKTG 471E Social Media Marketing; MUTC 100 Technology for Musicians

- Probable examples of Global & Diverse Perspectives that are already offered (depending on exact learning outcomes): ENGL 206A Global Issues in Literature; HIST 141 Asian Civilization; LING 205, Writing Systems of the World
- Regarding Phi Beta Kappa second language requirements, 201 is the first stage of intermediate competency, but the student wins membership by excelling and is likely to take more than the minimum language requirement.
- The After Mary Washington course is intended to allow students to identify their strengths within a major, to work on a portfolio, resume, or professional online presence. Example: THEA 400: Professional Identity & Practice.
- Beyond the Classroom will be fulfilled in any of the same ways as Experiential Learning is now: internship, individual study, study abroad, community engagement, practicum…

Regarding section 1, Foundations

Marcel Rotter introduced a change to the learning outcomes regarding languages in the latest proposal – the MDLL department wants to replace them with ones currently in place for intermediate courses (in this document: https://provost.umw.edu/files/2018/08/General-Education-Requirements-Learning-Outcomes.pdf

- MLL: Students can participate in conversations and give presentations on familiar topics using complete sentences. Classical: Students can understand the phonology of the target language and can correctly pronounce and recite prose and poetry in the language.
- MLL: Students can write briefly on familiar topics and present information using a series of sentences. Classical: Students can write brief compositions in the target language.
- MLL: Students can understand the main idea in messages and presentations on familiar topics related to everyday life and personal interests and studies. Office of Institutional Analysis and Effectiveness (November 2017) Classical: Students can understand the main idea in simple messages and presentations on familiar topics.
- MLL: Students can understand the main idea of literary and non-literary texts when the topic is familiar. Classical: Students can understand the morphology and syntax of the target language, and can understand literary and non-literary texts.
- Both: Students are acquainted with the variety of cultures and cultural perspectives associated with the target language.

The learning outcomes in the proposal are all a little provisional at this point.

Regarding section 2, Methods of Investigation

There was discussion about the two additional Methods courses and the exact intent of their inclusion. The council decided that wording should be changed so that the two additional courses could not be in the same subject area – i.e. "Two additional courses from any two of the five methods in this section". This will allow for both breadth and depth but will not allow for three general education courses in one subject area.

Regarding section 3, Connections

Discussion about Digital Fluency and the meaning of this across-the-curriculum; decision to replace "fluency" with "intensive" which is considered a higher-order of learning – so the requirement is now **Digital Intensive**. There are documents in the UFC Membership & Meeting Materials relating to digital; reports from a task force and the library. There will be no change to resources – basically, faculty will be supported by DTLT and the Digital Knowledge Center will continue to help students.

Discussion about **Beyond the Classroom** and After Mary Washington and how they are different. Due to considerations of faculty workload and community exhaustion, and the fact that two Beyond the Classroom courses might be an unreasonable imposition on transfer, non-traditional and economically-disadvantaged students, it was decided to reduce that to one Beyond the Classroom course.

After Mary Washington is intended as a career-focused course, and is already offered in a few departments (Education, Business, and Theatre); other departments are developing courses (Geography). Tim explained that there is plenty of capacity in existing IDIS courses and with the hire of a new Director of Career & Professional Development, there will be other such courses available. There is no requirement for majors to develop such a course. Students have expressed the desire for this kind of experience. Employers are likely looking at any UMW graduate in the same way, so it's good to have a similar experience for all graduates.

There was no discussion of Diverse and Global Perspectives, or the Writing/Speaking in the Major requirements.

UFC voted on each section by secret ballot, with a line-by-line vote on section 3, Connections. All sections passed.

Regarding a general faculty vote:

Previously approved by UFC: Anand Rao (vice-chair, UFC) and Jackie Gallagher (chair, UFC) move to hold an electronic vote on the general education curriculum after the final proposal has been presented. The secure ballot will be sent out by Debra Schleef to full-time instructional faculty only, per section 2.1.4 of the Faculty Handbook regarding Voting Privileges at Meetings of the General Faculty.

Rationale: holding an electronic vote will allow all faculty to vote anonymously on this important curriculum item, without requiring a public meeting at which quorum would have to be established and a paper ballot conducted.

2.1.3 Special General Faculty Meetings Special General Faculty meetings may be called by the President of the University or the Provost; at least three days notice in writing shall always be given, except that the President or the Provost may call an emergency meeting at any time to deal

with a specific issue. Such an emergency meeting shall have plenary powers but shall not be bound by the rules on order of business. _Submission of a petition with the signatures of ten members of the faculty above the rank of instructor representing five or more departments with one member from each of the University's colleges shall be sufficient for a General meeting of the faculty to be called._ Any action of the University Faculty Council may be debated at such meeting, subject to the requirements contained in §2.5. _The rulings of the General Faculty at these meetings will be final_, subject to approval by the Board of Visitors.

2.1.8 Quorum One hundred members of the general faculty with (1) at least five members from each of the University's colleges and (2) representation from at least ten different departments shall be a quorum for the transaction of business. A smaller number may only adjourn.

UFC Electronic Vote Motion - March 27, 2019

The Gen Ed secure ballot will be sent to full-time instructional faculty, per section 2.1.4 of the Faculty Handbook regarding Voting Privileges at Meetings of the General Faculty. As a vote of the faculty, the results of this vote are binding and not reviewable at the April General Faculty meeting. The ballot will be distributed via Qualtrics, which will allow for an anonymous vote while ensuring that: 1) only full-time faculty vote, and 2) quorum is met. The electronic ballot will be made available for faculty vote for a minimum of three business days. The results will be shared with all faculty upon completion of the vote.

The motion passed unanimously.

It was decided that, if possible, Debra would prepare the ballot on Friday with the intent for it to be sent out first thing Monday morning, and concluded at the end of the day on Wednesday. The results should be announced on Thursday.

The revised version of the proposal is available here.

The UFC meeting continued to discuss other items of business.