

Meeting of History Faculty
August 26, 2016

Present: Drs. Ewing, Dark, Dachowski, Bertrand, Schmeller, Patrick, VanZant, Oyebade, and Corse.

Meeting began at 9 AM.

We began with a discussion of the need to review our most recent audit (2011-2012). The key issue of what kind of data is being collected by the institutional research office. Schmeller asked that everyone look their section in the previous self-study that was sent out as an email attachment, and identify data needs.

Next we discussed Focal Area concerns. Dark clarified --audit is now a spectrum of levels--a 3 point scale instead of just met and not met. Performance funding is based on that scale. Dark recommended looking at the new rubric as we are thinking about our sections. He also made the point that learning outcomes are key which drive curriculum, and methods, and assessment. Currently our outcomes line up with university. However, we don't have an outcome that addresses application for such things as internships and student teaching. This needs to be addressed this year.

Oyebade offered material from the Political Science audit on Focal Areas if anyone in the group should need an example.

Dark clarified that enrollment is an issue for us, 10 graduates a year is still the goal. Still an issue of being mission central, that depends on the university. Oyebade explained he had just met at TBR to report on our low productions status. This is a long term concern, that needs some quick action.

In explaining how important the audit team is, the suggestion to look at list of possible audit team members--ideally some with history. Bertrand has had recent experience with the process over the last several years and suggested we do this as soon as possible.

We moved on to the recommendations from the 2011-2012 audit. The Bachelor of Science in History degree has been approved students entering this fall can start the BS track. And come into full effect next fall, 2017. Patrick asked about the process for creating a licensure degree BS. Dark clarified that that process would be faster for implementation now that the B.S. has been approved as licensure is a form of concentration for the already approved major.

Corse stressed this is our best time to revise learning outcomes--in particular the public history. Dachowski's work with the Tuning Project is still somewhat active. They will still make speakers available help with learning objectives and better market the degree. Creating applied learning objectives is key. Dark pointed out there is an overlap between AHA Tuning and Lumina foundation, and un-coverage work that VanZant has worked on.

History 1000 will need a significant space in the curriculum section. Corse promised that committee will meet very soon.

The major change since the last audit was that the number of adjuncts has declined as we have been able to create several full-time temporary positions.

Dark then spoke on the major field test, and Senior Exit exam scores, and senior project. Schmeller incorrectly labeled the Major Field Test as the "Senior Exit Exam" on the agenda. Dark pointed out we have never met our standard in major field test. Every year at least one student has been unable to demonstrate competence. A separated meeting will be called to focus on the exam as well our student responses.

Bertrand pointed out the necessity of measuring what students know when they come in and then what knowledge and skills they have developed when they leave. It was suggested that we could use sophomore level writing sample and compare with what they end with. It was suggested that to supplement the major field assessment with a portfolio element. Bertrand suggested we need to better track the remedial level students get through and support.

Patrick clarified his portfolio idea that would replace the major field test because it is low stakes. Instead have students show a paper that demonstrates how those ideas are met. Another key element would be a written reflection on something they have written. Ideally, the portfolio should contain all papers and essays in upper-division courses.

Side bar about problem of getting majors in the current university environment as well as among the students the university attracts.

Dachowski then spoke on the seminar designation process--the bridge course between 3500 and senior project. We had been informally designating a course for this, but HIST 4000 now exists in the system. Suggestion to make it more free form like the HIST 1000, but more advanced. Recommendation that we

specifically meet on that course to discuss what we will offer in the Spring 2017. There was support for the idea of 4000 being more a 1000 for seniors and getting ideas set for senior project. We agreed to a separate meeting on rotation, and 4000.

We then shifted to a discussion of revising the catalog description and structure of the history minor. Dachowski presented the options we previously discussed as well as the inconclusive results. It was agreed to update the minor description to include the new 2050, 2060, and African American history course. Dachowski further suggested we try and get information on how many minors we have. We then had a discussion on the number of upper-division hours that should be required for a minor. Motion to alter the minor to at least 3 hours at the upper division. Members present voted in favor, with the understanding that advising of minors would be used to encourage students to take more upper-division than the minimum as graduating seniors have upper-division hour requirements.

Patrick reminded us that TBR course numbering and number changes coming to several of our courses. This includes the change in name of Early American History for 2010, Modern US History for 2020, and a need to change title of our African American, and world courses. Dark was not sure if CARFs will be required if this is coming down as a mandate, but he agreed to investigate.

We concluded with a plan to next meet on major field test. Dark will distribute major field tests from past majors.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 AM.