Voting Members Present: Kate Alexander, Chair Joan Curry, Kyle DiRoberto, Amy Fountain, Robert Groves, Bayo Ijagbemi, Kim Jones, Steve Kortenkamp, Ted Laetsch, Jessica Maerz, Maha Nassar, Jeremiah Paschke-Wood, Tanya Quist, Jennifer Ravia

Ex-Officio Members Present: Abbie Sorg

Guests: Lauri Johnson, Laura Jensen

Voting Members Absent: Bennett Adamson, Joseph Agosttini, Adam Daly, Susan Miller-Cochran, Matt Ostermeyer, Mark Stegeman

Chair Joan Curry called the meeting to order at 3:20 PM with a quorum of 14 voting members. One additional member arrived after approval of the minutes. Jennifer Ravia voted as proxy for Matt Ostermeyer.

I. Approval of Meeting Minutes from December 4 — Joan Curry

Ted Laetsch moved to approve the minutes for December 4th with a revision to the attendance to show Jennifer Ravia as present on Dec 4th. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Ravia, and passed with 11 votes in favor and 2 abstentions.

II. 2nd Language Requirement Waiver for Bachelor of Landscape Architecture — Lauri Johnson

Lauri Johnson presented the request for a waiver for the 2nd Language requirement for this new major, explaining that the department is trying to keep the program within 4 years. At the end of the program students are workforce ready and there is a licensing process for students to get jobs once they graduate. The department is partnering with Architecture for some of the early studio courses to help undecided students decide between a Bachelor of Architecture and a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture. The major is a blend of both science and art, as can be seen in the curriculum plan. The department would like the 2nd language requirement to be waived because of the high total number of units required.

Discussion
- Why remove 2nd language instead of other requirements like other General Education areas (Science or Art, for instance, since those areas are already included in required coursework for this major) or the 6 units of electives? The department values Gen Eds to help round students out. They want to keep the T1/T2 requirements to help keep accreditation as well. Their request follows the lead of their peer institutions and accrediting board.
- The reason for the unit-heavy 1st year is because they're partnering with Architecture to offer an intro studio. This helps bring some students from Architecture to Landscape Architecture if they realize architecture isn't for them. Doing the foundational courses early means the students will get into the more technical courses quickly.
- Committee members noted that for many students, 2nd language is something they come in with through proficiency exams or high school work, etc. Not all students would actually need to complete 8 units of language coursework.
- It seems like some of the things Landscape Architecture is trying to target would be strengthened by 2nd language. 2nd language could be a selling point for coming to the UA (as a Hispanic serving institution, working with native peoples, etc) rather than other institutions. Landscape
Architecture should include a focus on cultural landscape. Landscape Architecture merges art and science, is also a professional program and needs more underrepresented students. Multilingual students could easily satisfy the requirement when they come in the door; this would be beneficial to many of the students they’re hoping to recruit. Committee members see 2nd language as an asset rather than a burden (this is also how they’d recommend advertising it to students).

- What are the ways students can prove proficiency? AP credit, Credit by Exam, CLEP, admissions proficiency exam, are all possibilities in addition to completing language courses.

- Landscape Architecture is open to suggestions about how to fit in all requirements without removing 2nd language. Committee members brought up the possibility of removing the elective requirements. It would be better to include 2nd language early on in the 4 year plan, since it’s difficult to come back to a language after a break from it. Students could be advised to do some refresher work before completing their proficiency exams prior to Orientation, to ensure they perform their best.

- It may be useful for the UWGEC to work on communication around 2nd language- there have been some persistent misunderstandings about what the requirement actually is and how proficiency can be proved. These misunderstandings may get translated to students from the departments to see 2nd language as an onerous requirement that it shouldn’t be.

Kim Jones made a motion to deny the Bachelor of Landscape Architecture 2nd Language waiver request. Maha Nassar seconded this, and the motion unanimously passed with 14 votes in favor.

III. 2nd Language Requirement Waiver for Bachelor of Architecture – continued from Dec 4

In response to the questions raised at the December 4 meeting, Robert Miller sent additional documentation on the Bachelor of Architecture’s full curriculum requirements. The committee agreed that the nature of this request is nearly identical to that of the request for the Bachelor of Landscape Architecture, and as such should be denied for the same reasons. The Second Language requirement should not be considered less important than the other General Education requirements, and for many students the requirement will not amount to an additional 8 units of coursework, but a confirmation of proficiency through an exam or a combination of exam and coursework.

Rob Groves made a motion to deny the Bachelor of Architecture 2nd Language waiver request. Maha Nassar seconded this, and the motion unanimously passed with 14 votes in favor.

IV. Policy Update: 2nd Language Requirement for International Students — Kim Jones

As discussed at the December 4 meeting, a proposal for updated language to the 2nd Language Requirement policy was reviewed by the committee to close the gaps between the policy and the English Proficiency requirements for admission. Proposed updated language:

“U.S. students who are speakers of a language other than English (e.g. Spanish, American Sign Language, Navajo) may satisfy the requirement through a proficiency exam administered by the appropriate department.

International students whose primary language is not English and who had to prove English proficiency to be admitted to the University may fulfill the Second Language Requirement by proving their English proficiency before admission and have thereby fulfilled the Second Language Requirement.”
The committee suggested a change to the wording of the second paragraph of the proposal, as indicated by the strikethrough and red text above. The committee agreed that the updated language of the proposal would be beneficial by deferring to the admission requirements rather than specifying individual exam types (which change over time). Committee members noted that members of the Undergraduate Council raised concerns about students’ ability to successfully function in an English-speaking classroom when a previous similar proposal was submitted; the committee agreed that the university’s second language requirement only requires 2nd or 4th semester proficiency, and that students who meet admissions standards have demonstrated an equivalent proficiency in English.

Amy Fountain made a motion to approve the policy update proposal. Rob Groves seconded this, and the motion passed with 13 votes in favor and one abstention.

V. Discussion of UWGEC Course Approval procedure— Joan Curry

The length of the course approval route was discussed at a recent Undergraduate Council Curriculum and Policies Subcommittee meeting, based on an announcement by the Provost that the program approval process and the course approval process should be complete in 30 days or less. The average time courses remain in the UWGEC step of the course approval process is 35 days, since the committee meets monthly and some courses are conditionally approved or tabled for further review. Other adjustments are being considered to speed up the process and streamline the 10 business day university review period, possibly by changing approvals to take place concurrently rather than sequentially.

Possible solutions were discussed: committee members sending feedback to departments prior to the monthly meeting, so that updates could be made before the syllabus is formally voted on; holding more e-votes for courses that don’t appear to have significant issues so only courses with concerns wait to be discussed and voted on at the monthly meeting.

Amy Fountain, Kim Jones, and Tanya Quist agreed to propose an update to the UWGEC process at the next meeting.

VI. Course Proposals

1) **HED 102, Succeeding as a Global Wildcat**— new for Success Course designation. No concerns were raised about course content or designation.

   Amy Fountain made a motion to approve HED 102 for Success Course designation. Jessica Maerz seconded this, and the motion unanimously passed with 14 votes in favor.

2) **HED 103, Succeeding as a Global Professional**— new for Success Course designation. No concerns were raised about course content or designation.

   Amy Fountain made a motion to approve HED 103 for Success Course designation. Jessica Maerz seconded this, and the motion unanimously passed with 14 votes in favor.

3) **HIST 307, Perpetual Revolutions: The History of the Bicycle**— new for Tier Two Humanities and Diversity Emphasis. Committee members noted that the request form is inconsistent about whether this course should be designated as Diversity Emphasis or not, and would like clarification from the department. The syllabus provided does not sufficiently demonstrate Diversity Emphasis. The committee also noted that the course requires a large amount of writing, which may deter students
The committee was not satisfied with the specific documents submitted for the HIST 407 version of the course. The committee agreed that it was possible that the department had submitted the syllabus for the HIST 407 version of the course rather than the HIST 307 course that would replace it, and would like to confirm with the department that the correct syllabus is being reviewed.

Amy Fountain made a motion to table HIST 307 until an updated syllabus can be reviewed. Jessica Maerz seconded this, and the motion passed with 12 votes in favor and 2 abstentions.

4) HNRS 301, Honors Cultural Immersion—new for Tier Two Individuals and Societies and Diversity Emphasis. The committee noted that the course as proposed includes a 1-week cultural immersion experience, which creates a financial barrier to access. The amount of reading and writing is low for this level, and the 40% rule and revision elements need to be updated to meet General Education requirements. The committee felt that the Diversity Emphasis designation would depend on the focus and location of the cultural immersion, which appears to be variable from year to year.

Kim Jones made a motion to table HNRS 301 until an updated syllabus can be reviewed. Jessica Maerz seconded this, and the motion unanimously passed with 14 votes in favor.

5) PTYS 206, Our Golden Age of Planetary Exploration—modification to an existing Tier Two Natural Sciences course to update the course title and course description. Committee members noted that the syllabus is missing a schedule and thus it is difficult to determine if the course meets the 40% rule. Syllabus would also benefit from clearer attention to information literacy.

The committee agreed to table PTYS 206 until an updated syllabus can be reviewed.

6) RELI 160D6, Gender and Religion—new for Tier One Traditions and Cultures and Diversity Emphasis. Committee members noted that some of the journal article readings may be too advanced for 1st year students, and alternate readings may be necessary. The syllabus and request form were not in agreement about how many pages each student is required to contribute to the Final Project assignment.

Rob Groves made a motion to conditionally approve RELI 160D6 for Tier One Traditions and Cultures and Diversity Emphasis. Maha Nassar seconded this, and the motion passed with 12 votes in favor and one vote against.

Joan adjourned the meeting at 5:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Abbie Sorg, 1/7/20