

Rollins College

Rollins Scholarship Online

Curriculum Committee Minutes

College of Liberal Arts Minutes and Reports

3-23-2021

Minutes, Curriculum Committee Meeting, Tuesday, March 23, 2021

Curriculum Committee

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Curriculum Committee Meeting Agenda

Date: March 23, 2021

Location: WebEx room <https://rollins.webex.com/meet/mvidovic>

Voting members:

- ☒ Martina Vidovic (Chair)
- ☒ Valerie Summet
- ☒ Brendaliz Santiago-Narvaez (secretary)
- ☒ Mark Heileman
- ☒ Caitlin Mohr
- ☒ Gloria Cook
- ☒ Jana Mathews
- ☒ Brian Mosby
- ☒ Sarah Parsloe
- ☒ Rochelle Elva
- ☒ Kyle Bennett

Non-voting members:

- ☒ Ashley Kistler
- ☒ Stephanie Henning
- ☒ Rob Sanders
- ☒ Cameron Peterson
- ☒ Zoe Pearson
- ☒ Senal Hewage

Guests:

- ☒ Mae Fitchett
- ☐ Toni Holbrook
- ☐ Tiffany Griffin
- ☒ Steve Booker
- ☐ Gabriel Barreneche
- ☒ Mikayla Mikesell
- ☒ Kim Dennis

Agenda

- 1. Approve minutes from the March 9, 2021 meeting**
2. *Martina-* Gloria has a small addition. Clarification. We will make changes. Motion to approve minutes- *Jana*; Second- *Sarah*. **Minutes passed- raising of hands.**
- 3. Sub-committee reports**
 - a. New course- *Brian*- No report.
 - b. Academic Appeals-*Valerie*- No report.
 - c. EC report – *Martina*- No report.
 - d. Registration- *Gloria*- No report.
 - e. SGA – *Zoe*- No report.
- 4. Old business**
 - a. Self-Designed Major Proposal – Mikayla Mikesell, Kim Dennis
 - b. *Mikayla*-You asked me to clarify why specifically I cannot accomplish these goals with a conventional major. I feel like I will be limiting myself if I only chose one or two other areas of focus. I could not accomplish all of these goals – classes or space without combining it into this major. I clarified how each one has an interdisciplinary relation to their area of study. I want to focus on all of these areas of artistic media, film, conventional art and literature and having those interconnected.
 - c. *Martina*- There were some questions from committee... one revolved around your chosen project for the independent research. We know it is early for you to have a definite plan. With the last proposal there were two topics that you were looking at. You narrowed it down. It seems like you are planning to do a short documentary. A lot of what your proposed would be a good fit on the CMC

major. Why did you decide not to include someone from CMC from your committee as they could be a good fit? Can you talk about that?

- d. *Mikayla*- I would like to get a CMC faculty involved. I am taking a film course taught by Dr. Cummings. I want to discuss this specific project and major with her and include her as well.
- e. *Kim*- I encouraged Mikayla to do that. The initial projects are in my area. Films about artists and their works. Her topic of choice is unique and it an exciting topic. It will be good to phase me out and have another faculty in the technical skills to help make a documentary.
- f. *Martina*- Ashley? Is that possible to phase out advisors?
- g. *Ashley*- I don't know the answer to that question. I think it is not ideal to have a different advisor, but you can always add an additional member to your thesis. I would say continuity of advisor is important to the program. I support self- design majors because I was one myself but I would say having a consistent advisor is important.
- h. *Jana*- Thank you Mikayla for bringing your ideas up to the committee, I know it can be intimidating. Part of the balance within any major is to pursue a project that combines all these areas of interests. One of the things we wanted you to think about is, and the point is not to discourage but, to think more broadly to incorporate within an existing major. It is more about how a self- design major might communicate to an audience outside of academia. Think of your professional goals. It will require you to do more legwork to explain what this major is. When you branch out it means communicating. I am not opposed but do you want to do that extra work or is it easier if it is within the rubric of what is already in place? That may help you more professionally down the road.
- i. *Mikayla*- It is important for me to have that branching point for something I would discuss. I think it is important for me to demonstrate how art is interdisciplinary. I think these conversations are important to me.
- j. *Ashley (chat)* - I think Dr. Mathews makes some really good points.
- k. *Kim*- I would just say as Ashley said. I appreciate Jana's points. I think it could be an opportunity for a discussion, to position herself professionally. You can think of an asset or as an obstacle. If the committee is concerned about continuity of advising is to whether Dr. Libby would be the point person for that. Not sure of you could to do a contingent approval.
- l. *Jana*- I can only speak for myself. We all work closely. If Mikayla has the support, the project will evolve and change and she can change her mind. I don't see the advising directorial component as an obstacle. I whole heartedly support self- design majors. I want to make sure that you have thought carefully of the potential implications of that. It is not just about communicating that, it may not even get to that point. It can be done, but just think about it.
- m. *Mikayla*- Having a portfolio of different projects, expanse of artistic abilities may be helpful to show.
- n. *Martina*- Did you talk to Susan, would she be ok with it?
- o. *Kim*- She knew we were meeting today so we exchanged a few words. Mentioned for the possibility to collaborate. I would leave it to Mikayla to make that connection with Dr. Libby.

- p. *Ashley (chat)*- I'm not a voting member of this committee, but who the advisor is wouldn't be a deal breaker for me. I think the close consultation with your committee and having a consistent advisory committee is the most important thing.
- q. *Martina*- She has made substitution courses for 300- level. She has also replaced honors courses she would double count.
- r. *Jana(chat)*- @agree Ashley.
- s. *Gloria*- This feels like it is research project driven. I am correct Mikayla?
- t. *Mikayla*- The research aspect will be extremely focused on my senior year. I just want to learn all these skills.
- u. *Jana*- What if you pursue an existing major but choose a senior project that is more interdisciplinary? Part of interdisciplinary work is to bring things to the table. Things that you may not organically be attracted to. I worry that when you do a self- design major that encompasses three fields of study that are so closely aligned that you think you are expanding but you really are narrowing your studies. My interest is to maybe think about a conventional major for that reason Ex. Art History. You can largely have an even better experience through combining. I want to respect the autonomy of individual choice from people who had advised and seen this with other students. Kim I would like to hear from you.
- v. *Kim*- I think Mikayla opinion is more important. One thing is that it is a lot of majors to combine, but Mikayla has given some thought to that.
- w. *Mikayla*- In film studies we occasionally we make a film, In art history you get one course that is art related, in English you analyze... having this major that is more constructive making something of your own. I want to have my own portfolio, to feel free in what I'm selecting and what I want to do in the future. Having the freedom to explore all areas of art is important to me personally.
- x. *Mae(chat)*- I've got lots of noise around me. Can someone ask Makayla when she plans to graduate?
- y. *Jana(chat)*- I think that is a very limited view of these fields/departments.... You wouldn't have to major/minor in all of them. You could major in one and take select courses from the others.... But I respect your views.
- z. *Kim (chat)*- @Gloria - I think we've just been talking about research a lot today bc the thesis idea changed from the first draft to this one & now Makayla is planning to apply for a collaborative research project with Dr. Libby.
- aa. *Valerie(chat)*- @Mae: She's filing this at the end of her 2nd year.
- bb. *Sarah*- In your revision you mention finding a way to balance extra-curricular and curricular activities.?
- cc. *Mikayla*- I am currently involved in the student council. I would like to do research projects SFCS and internships and I don't think I will be able to accomplish that while also currently working unless I do it this way.
- dd. *Martina*- What is your target Graduation date?
- ee. *Mikayla*- May 2023, I am flexible, say if I took summer courses.
- ff. *Mae(chat)*- I'm just concerned if she can finish self-designed and Honors by her targeted grad date. Sorry, I'm always looking at their ability to graduate in a timely manner. She has not started the foreign language sequence for FCMP.

gg. *Ashley*- I designed a major called Anthropology because it did not exist in my institution. I directed a self- design major here at Rollins and I do recall that the student had an issue with employment opportunities and graduate school consideration because of the title chosen for their major. I wanted to add to what Dr. Mathews has been sharing.

hh. *Martina*- You say if you are in major you will not be able to take this courses, but you can always take electives, your final project is a defining part of you. You can market yourself based on your specific research project as well as the additional skills.

ii. *Sarah(chat)*- I appreciate the work Makayla has done to revise this in a thoughtful way.

jj. *Martina*- Why don't you excuse yourselves and I will be in touch with you later today.

Meeting of the whole. Voted by raising of hands.

kk. **Vote tally:** 6(against)-3(abstain)-2 (in favor).

5. New business

a. Health and Wellness Recommendation – Ashley Kistler

i. *Ashley*- Permanently eliminate BCOMP for now- health and wellness.

There are concerns about lack of resources to support any initiatives and there is no support and resources, for this so we want to suggest a combination of programs.

1. Revamp components of RCC- Sex and Health. Onus is on the peer mentor programing not on the faculty. Dimensions of Wellness as a focus.

2. Missy Barnes and Andrew Luchner- will teach a BCMP course- called Meaningful Life- wellness and focus in different ways. Overload compensation to the faculty. Not a graduation requirement.

3. Encourage those teaching senior seminar to include these dimensions of wellness into the capstone courses.

4. Ultimate goal- Another survey how many people teach courses that have a significant component of wellbeing. Come up with new Wellbeing designation like CE designation to have on your course. Not a graduation requirement. Can operate as the ethics competency, faculty receive training to have that designation. This is more of a long term goal.

ii. *Zoe(chat)*- I have to leave for another meeting, but I really loved these recommendations. I think this would improve student experiences through the Peer Mentor program as well as the RCC/RFLA program. It addresses a lot of the complaints I've heard from students about the health and wellness requirement and I'm very grateful for all the thought you've put into this!

iii. *Kyle*- For the revamp of RCC will that also apply to HON 201?

iv. *Ashley* - Yes, as this is a revamp of the peer mentor aspect and what they do and HON 201 have peer mentors. I can fix that. We think Peer Mentor program is a great place to start.

- v. *Martina*- Is the plan to talk to faculty when we all come back face to face?
- vi. *Ashley*- Yes, but we can send the surveys now to see who is doing this in their courses.
- vii. *Gloria*- I want to offer my gratitude for doing this.
- viii. *Catilin*- I am glad this brought back to the forefront. I am concerned over the course load to RCC instructors. But I think I teach health and the musician, it is crucial for students to understand that.
- ix. *Martina*- We are not putting the responsibility on the faculty, it is more extracurricular.
- x. *Sarah (chat)*- Would be interested in learning more about how Peer mentors would be trained and supported in this.
- xi. *Ashley*- We will not change the work of the RCC instructor, the work will be on the peer mentors.
- xii. *Kyle*- What about those faculty members who were previously teaching those courses? Are they still around? What happens when we suspend that?
- xiii. *Ashley*- I don't want to get on the specific personal decision roles as this occurred at a time when I was not in this role. I can say that in the past they were taught by contingent faculty. I don't think there are staffing implications.
- xiv. *Kyle*- Is there intention to bring back general health and fitness education classes- Scuba etc...
- xv. *Ashley*- I don't think this fell under the scope of this committee as it is a separate issue. This committee or SGA can look into this.
- xvi. *Martina*- Are we endorsing?
- xvii. *Ashley*- We are just soliciting feedback.
- xviii. *Martina*- Pass this to EC then?
- xix. *Ashley*- Yes.

b. Self-Designed Minor Proposal- *Postpone for next week. Can you send me any concerns about this?*

- i. *Martina*- I could not find any guidelines.
- ii. *Ashley*- It seems it is all within the same department?
- iii. *Kyle(chat)*- I was wondering if a self-designed minor was even a thing.
- iv. *Stephanie*- We have had a self- design minor- in Chinese.
- v. *Ashley(chat)*- I think we need to see those minor guidelines.
- vi. *Mae(chat)*- It goes back to 2015.

6. Announcements

7. Adjourn

Notes taken by B. Santiago- Narvaez.