

History Program Planning Committee Minutes
September 9, 2009

Attending: Corse, Dark, Dachowski, Bertrand, Browne, Williams, McClain, Oyebade, and Schmeller

- I. TBR Update—Dr. Schmeller explained that efforts to regularize transfer credits within TBR system were coming.
 - a. American History and transfer credits—Dr. Schmeller shared that accepting world or western civ from UT system schools was now policy. Additionally, the two year American history requirement is essentially ending. While TBR schools do not appear to be moving on this immediately, we need to consider what other options we will provide as part of a remaining but broader 6 hour history requirement.
 - b. World History—Dr. Corse suggested that moving World history out of humanities and into the Social Sciences requirement would be one obvious option. Dr. Dark suggested that even further diversifying history offerings into such courses as lower division African-American and Women’s history surveys. Dr. Dachowski pointed out that some fairly major reconstruction of the major would be necessary with the removal of World from the humanities requirement.
 - c. Other 1000 level courses—Dr. Dark recommended that we begin by making proposals for new General Education courses. Dr. Dachowski suggested that such course proposals be submitted by mid October.
- II. New Course Proposals and Renaming of Courses—Dr. Course informed the group that he intended to formerly change the name of his Latin American Survey as part of general departmental efforts to “modernize” our course offerings to be more appealing. Dr. Schmeller also intends to change the names of the upper-division early-American sequence. Both Dr. Course and Schmeller informed Dr. Dachowski that they would submit CARFs within the next few days for committee review.

The discussion then shifted to the topic of the creation of a Senior Seminar and/or special topics course to serve as a bridge between History Workshop and Senior Project. Dr. Browne shared her frustration with our majors’ difficulty in applying the methodology, terminology, etc. from Workshop to Senior Project. Drs. Dark, Schmeller, Williams, Dachowski, and Bertrand all expressed agreement and shared some examples. Dr. Schmeller asked for thoughts on what such a seminar might look like. Defining the course broadly to be structured something like a special topics course in either US or Non-US, surveying students to determine their interests, looking at what courses majors have been gravitating toward, were all discussed. It was suggested that a grouping of faculty to deal with specific areas be created. The suggested groupings were: 1. Browne, Schmeller, Williams, and Haney for Early America to 1877 2. McClain, Lovett, Bertrand, and Williams for African-American 3. Dachowski, Dark, Corse, and Oyebade for Non-US Lastly it was discussed how the history curriculum would need to be changed as well to reflect the new sequencing of courses. It was agreed that our next meeting would be dedicated to discussing more specifically the structure of the Seminar course.

- III. 3-5 Year Course Rotation—Dr. Schmeller shared the draft of the 3-5 year course rotation that he, Dr. Dachowski, and Ms. McCutcheon had been working on for general feedback. The need for the rotation was to address the coming change in the teacher education curriculum to allow History majors to complete all history major course—except for Senior Project—in 3 years. The rotation will also be

posted and generally publicized to aid majors in planning their schedules further in advance. It is hoped this might also help with recruitment, retention, and completion of our majors.

IV. Other Items—The Academic Prioritization process as it affects History was discussed.