

Minutes: European Studies Executive Committee, 23 April 2012

Present: Dennis Domer, Jon Giullian, Marc Greenberg, Van Kelly, Taylor Leibrandt, Barbara Phipps, Dale Urie, Lorie Vanchena

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. The minutes from 5 April 2012 were approved.

Updates

Peter S. Soppelsa's lecture on 16 April 2012 was well received. 36 people attended the event, including several students.

EURS is co-sponsoring the Africa World Documentary Film Festival April 25-28, which includes 5 screenings relevant to European Studies.

Vanchena met with John Kennedy, Director of CGIS, who supports EURS efforts to develop a EURS major and create a 200-level content-based course that focuses on developing competency in information literacy. He is familiarizing himself with CGIS finances and should soon be able to provide us with a general figure for the EURS programming budget AY 2012-13; he suggested requiring CGIS co-sponsorship with EURS co-sponsorship only when the Center's contribution exceeds \$500, to help EURS establish an independent profile. He agreed that EURS, rather than CGIS, should make decisions regarding curricular matters such as cross-listing and approving courses for EURS co-majors and minors.

Vanchena met with Associate Dean Marsha Haufler to discuss creating a full major and BA in European Studies. The requirements and process for a new major are explained in Appendix G of the KBOR policy manual: http://www.kansasregents.org/policies_procedures/. The policy states:

- The volume of student demand for the proposed program shall be demonstrated through some form of disciplined survey analysis.
- Student demand shall be demonstrated to be at a sufficient volume to justify the program. Normally three years after inception of the program, doctoral programs should have five students, master's programs should have 20 students, and baccalaureate programs should have 50 students.

The number "50" applies to a BA program three years after its inception, not to the number of previous co-majors or minors. A co-major is not a BA program, at least not as listed in the academic catalogue: <http://www2.ku.edu/~distinction/cgi-bin/fields-of-study-2011-12#02>. Dedicated faculty lines are not required for establishing a major.

EURS can use the number of co-majors as one indicator of student demand, if the currently low numbers are properly contextualized: students sign up for the EURS co-major even though it is cumbersome and does not yield a BA in European Studies. We can probably make a stronger case by using interest surveys, indicators such as the number of students enrolled in courses on European topics in various departments, etc. Associate Dean Haufler encouraged us to include a substantial social science component in the degree requirements to link with the strategic initiatives.

Core/affiliate/associate faculty and staff

Vanchena is currently inviting Europeanists to serve as core, affiliate, or associate faculty and staff members of the European Studies Program. She is mentioning the possibility of CGIS securing a source of funding for a limited number of competitive research and conference awards for core faculty and staff. The goal is to identify members for each group by the end of the semester and call a meeting of the entire group in the fall. The by-laws were changed to indicate that a members meeting would take place each year in fall rather than in spring.

New Business

The EC unanimously approved the by-laws. In Fall 2012, the Core faculty and staff will be asked to approve the by-laws.

It was decided that the Executive Committee (EC) could best serve as the Curriculum Committee in Fall 2012, given that its members represent the College and different Schools. The EC approved a friendly amendment to the by-laws that reflects this decision.

The EC discussed a strategy proposed by Associate Dean Marsha Haufler for proposing a EURS major. There was general consensus that we wait until next spring before starting the process of creating a major, which allows us to use the coming year to strengthen EURS and gather information in various ways: 1) build student interest in the program through curricular and co-curricular developments, word of mouth, and personalized mentoring; 2) collect data on enrollments in EURS courses; 3) conduct informal exit interviews with this year's graduates on the co-major vs. major issue; 4) and gather supporting from our EURS Advising Specialist Laura Leonard. Next year at this time we should be in a much stronger position to move forward with a EURS major.

The EC discussed a new 200-level course content-based course that focuses on developing competency in information literacy. While we could get a new course approved in time for spring 2013, most departments have already made decisions about teaching assignments for that semester. One option is to invite a series of EURS core and affiliate faculty to teach 1-2 class meetings during the semester, addressing the course topic from their respective disciplines, thus avoiding the need for a colleague to teach an overload, ensuring an interdisciplinary approach to the course, allowing students to meet several faculty members, and engaging several colleagues in the Program. Jon raised an important point: students will best develop a research project and their information literacy competency if a single faculty member and a single librarian guide them through the course.

The EC brainstormed ideas for marking the 100th anniversary of World War I. There was enthusiastic support for exploring the role of technology in the conflict, particularly aviation, which would allow us to connect with aviation history in Kansas. The Nelson Atkins Museum of Art is considering an exhibition about World War I (2018). We could consider offering a EURS course on WWI that coincides with an exhibition at the Nelson Atkins and also draws on the collections available at the Spencer Museum of Art and the Spencer Research Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.