

AD&M Curriculum Committee of the Whole Meeting January 30, 2009

Present:

Brian Bishop, Carolyn Shafer, Sharon Wood, Fred Clark, Connie Conklin, Susie Antcliff, Peter Tascarella, Diana Grinwis, Susan McGinnis-Hardee, Cassie Brogan, Nancy Rhodes-Johnson.

Brian began the meeting by introducing the EON Reality software purchase to the faculty present. He stated that we would be moving forward as a program to develop an "information design" curriculum, largely focusing on convergences of media, tasks, and skill sets in the industry, along with the new 3D Visualization elements. He stated that the college purchased the software, and we were the program initially designated to get it off the ground. It is intended as collaborative software and curricula with other programs in the college, and as a collaborative element within the regional business community.

Fred raised the questions of "what guidance do we have to develop courses," "Where is the benefit to this, who will use this knowledge or skill set?" He requested a disclaimer on our accepting the software and responsibility for instruction, stating that the Dean's office needs to survey students and community for information on awareness, interest, and potential business/employment applications for the new 3d Vis proposal. Brian said he would approach the Dean's office with the request. (As of this writing D. of I Mary Speiser enthusiastically supported the idea, and the process of developing a survey mechanism has begun).

There was general consensus among the rest present that this presented an opportunity for the program, and that we should proceed. There is some wariness regarding the EON software, as no one has worked with it before. Therefore, we don't know it's capabilities, limitations, and ease of instruction.

Brian then introduced the topic the Fine Art Foundation degree. Enrollments in the upper level required courses ARTS 140 Printmaking, ARTS 200 Painting, and ARTS 267 Advanced Drawing have been dismal over the last 5 years, and it is difficult for the few FAF majors to get through the degree without major substitutions to their curriculum. The enrollments are as follows:

Over the last 5 years, we have offered and run the following:

ARTS 140 Printmaking	Offered 8	Ran 2
ARTS 200 Painting	Offered 8	Ran 1 (under enrolled)
ARTS 267 Advanced Drawing	Offered 6	Ran 3 (not in the last 3 years)

ARTS 206 Figure Sculpture Discontinued 2 years ago

Brian stated that this is grossly unfair to our students, and that we need to take action on this before the lack of enrollments compels the Dean's office to act on the situation. The options he presented for discussion and group comments were:

- Leave as is...unfair to students, harms section management numbers

- Move the above, ARTS 203 Figure Painting, ARTS 19? Matting and Framing, and ARTS 225 Comic Book Illustration to ECE...There at least people of the community could have access.
- Reduce the prerequisites to ease entry...may harm transfer and articulation, cheapen the academic experience
- Articulate with 4 year colleges...CMU and UM-Flint discussed with us, but chose not to
- Change the degree to have these courses as electives...doesn't fill the courses
- Create a new degree based on Design and Drawing...would essentially remove Advanced FA from the curriculum
- Move certain courses to other campus areas like Humanities
- Drop it altogether

Cassie stated that ECE treats everyone well, has marketing, and the cancellation dates are much later than ADM. This allows courses to fill. Connie replied that ECE has a different market, and they market by the class, not working to get students through a curriculum as we do. We also need to be aware of academic standards, transfer agreements, and the future of the program.

Fred stated that he would prefer a high level committee, such as the President of the College, V.P. for Academic Affairs, Deans or chairs to determine the future of Fine Art education on campus. He also suggested we should survey high schools to see what levels of art education our students are coming in with, and what they want for classes before we do anything. Brian will approach the Dept. Chair regarding feasibility of such an action.

We adjourned, to meet in 2 weeks. Brian was to gather information from ECE regarding grading, transfer, and student base. He was also to consult Division Office, and other areas on campus like Humanities re: movement of FA courses out of ADM, to be presented at the next curriculum meeting. At that time a vote may be taken regarding disposition recommendation to the Chair.