SPECIAL REPORT

OF THE

ACADEMIC MATTERS COUNCIL

concerning

REVISION TO THE SANDINAVIAN STUDIES CONCENTRATION IN THE GERMAN AND SANDINAVIAN STUDIES MAJOR (#4589)

Presented at the
776th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate
March 8, 2018

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

ACADEMIC MATTERS COUNCIL

Neal Abraham, Wesley Autio, Martha Baker, Carol Barr, Brian Beck, Allison Butler, Marcy Clark, Catherine Dimmitt, Sharon Domier, Diane Flaherty, Laura Francis, Mark Guerber, Jennifer Heuer, Maeve Howett, Patrick Kelly, Kathryn Lachman, Nancy Lamb, Meredith Lind, Linda Lowry, Pamela Marsh-Williams, Roberta Marvin, Ernest May, David Morin, Ruthann Paradise, Jennifer Randall, MJ Peterson, Linda Shea, Chair, Kelly Smiaroski, Ben Stone, Kregg Strehorn, Patrick Sullivan, Nancy Symmes, Jack Wileden, Rebecca Woodland

ACADEMIC MATTERS COUNCIL

The Academic Matters Council recommends approval of this proposal.

Please describe your proposal

German and Scandinavian Studies completely revised its curriculum in 2007 to reflect changes in our field from traditional literary studies to a strongly interdisciplinary and broader cultural studies model. The Scandinavian concentration now requires 13 courses: 7 designated courses, including 2 upper-level Swedish courses (3rd-year Swedish), one medieval course, the Junior Year Writing course, our combined capstone and Integrative Experience course, and two 300-level culture courses. We require 6 additional culture and history courses from related fields, including history, Scandinavian society, a comparative course, linguistics or literature, a film course, and one additional course. We are now concerned that our major has too many required courses compared with other majors (e.g., 10 in English and 12 in History and in Philosophy).
We are especially concerned because almost all our cultural and historical courses have now received GenEd status and have been increased from 3 to 4 credits. Thus, the typical German and Scandinavian studies major who needed 39 credits from 13 three-credit courses to complete the major, now regularly accumulates 45 credits from the 13 courses to complete the major. That number becomes 57 credits if the student’s prerequisite elementary Swedish courses are done here at UMASS.

We believe we can remedy this and still maintain the quality and breadth of our major by combining some requirements and eliminating redundancies. We propose to eliminate the need for our freestanding and under-enrolled Junior Year Writing course by enhancing 3 of our upper-level culture courses to make them compliant with Junior Year Writing requirements, a model that Theater and other departments follow. These enhanced courses may then satisfy two of our current requirements. We are also proposing to eliminate our comparative requirement, which given the nature of our many interdisciplinary courses has now become redundant. Finally, we propose eliminating our medieval requirement because this content is included in other courses that students will take in category B requirements. Under these new guidelines, students will still take a total of approximately 39 credits.

Provide a brief overview of the process for developing the proposal.

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee discussion and development

The German and Scandinavian Studies Undergraduate Curriculum Committee met regularly during the academic year 2016/2017 to review the existing major concentrations in German and Scandinavian studies. This included consulting the Curriculum Review we had undertaken for Dean Hayes in 2016 and the Dean’s comments and assessing our curriculum as a whole.

German and Scandinavian Studies program review and approval

After the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee in German and Scandinavian studies had developed a curriculum proposal for the revision of the German and Scandinavian concentrations in the German and Scandinavian studies major, this was presented to the full German and Scandinavian studies faculty for review, discussion, and approval. The review stage took place over the course of several faculty meetings during the spring semester 2018 and early fall semester 2018. After agreed upon revisions, the final proposal was approved by a unanimous vote of the German and Scandinavian studies faculty.

Purpose and Goals

Describe the proposal’s purpose and the particular knowledge and skills to be acquired.

Our proposed changes aim to make our major more flexible by simplifying our requirements in combining some courses and eliminating redundancies. Our purpose is to adjust the number of credits required by our major from 45 (sometimes 57 credits) back to approximately 39 credits as required in our last comprehensive revision of our major.
Resources

If this proposal requires no additional resources, say so and briefly explain why. If this proposal requires additional resources, explain how they will be paid for. For proposals involving instruction, indicate how many new enrollments are expected and whether the courses have room to accommodate them.

This proposal does not require additional resources.

Curriculum

Provide a curriculum outline showing degree program requirements, requirements of any existing concentrations, requirements of proposed concentration, and how they relate. You may include this outline and any additional documents as attachments below.

Please see attached

MOTION: That the Faculty Senate approve the Revision to Scandinavian Studies 21-18 Concentration in the German and Scandinavian Studies Major, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 18-045.
German & Scandinavian Studies Major
German Concentration Course Work Checklist

Prerequisites
Swedish 110, 120, 230, and 240 or their equivalents

Group A – Six Required Courses in Scandinavian Studies:

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<th>Course number</th>
<th>Course title</th>
<th>When</th>
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<tr>
<td>Swedish 310</td>
<td>Advanced Swedish I</td>
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<td>Swedish 320</td>
<td>Advanced Swedish II</td>
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<td>Scand 250</td>
<td>Hans Christian Andersen</td>
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<td>Scand 597B</td>
<td>Ibsen and Strindberg</td>
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<td>Junior Year Writing*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capstone/Integrative Experience*</td>
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Note: Scand 597B is currently being converted to a permanent course.

*Junior Year Writing and Capstone must be replaced by an approved elective course if taken in another major

**Exceptions, equivalencies, approvals, and substitutions may be made by the Undergraduate Advisor

Group B – Four additional courses, approved by German and Scandinavian Studies

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