

Interdisciplinary Studies Committee Meeting Minutes

September 5, 2017 ♦ 1:00 PM

Martin Room

Attendees: Nancy Tate, Deborah Altus, Alexandra Klaes, Rodrigo Mercader, Andrea Thimesch, Rosemary Walker, Israel Wasserstein, Geoff Way

Guests: Kelly Erby, Vanessa Steinroetter

Dr. Tate called the meeting to order, provided information on the history and purpose of the Interdisciplinary Studies Committee for new committee members, and facilitated introductions.

Drs. Erby and Steinroetter provided information on the Kansas Studies minor and answered questions about the proposals for requesting a Kansas Studies (KS) prefix and creation of KS 395, KS 397, and KS 399. Students obtain a Kansas Studies minor via a combination of upper and lower division courses totaling a minimum of 15 credit hours; at this time, there are no required courses. The content of current Kansas Study courses, IS 199 and IS 340, would not change with a prefix change to KS. The proposed courses of KS 395: Independent Study in Kansas Studies, KS 397: Internship in Kansas Studies, and KS 399: Special Topics in Kansas History will not be general education courses. As Kansas Studies is an interdisciplinary program, courses with a KS prefix—particularly KS 395 and KS 397—could be cross-listed with other departments. Both on- and off-campus programs have expressed interest in KS 397, which could provide a better fit than History or Political Science internships in which students have previously enrolled. Due to the range of faculty teaching a variety of approved topics with variable credit hours, the assessment question for KS 395 and KS 399 was intentionally vague; however, faculty teaching KS courses are mentored by a Kansas Studies Fellow.

Following this discussion, a motion to approve the prefix and courses was given and seconded; the prefix and courses were unanimously passed with the recommendation that approval from the Kansas Studies director, in addition to the course instructor, be added to the prerequisite of KS 395.

Dr. Tate adjourned the meeting.