New Programs and Innovations Committee Minutes
September 20, 2012

Called to order at 9:35 a.m.

I. New Business

A. Notifications of 6 special topic sections were presented and logged.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Transcript Title</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Times taught</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECO 398</td>
<td>Behavioral Economics</td>
<td>Spring 2013</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>HON 298</td>
<td>Economic Geography/Sculpture</td>
<td>Spring 2013</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>ITA 398</td>
<td>Italian through Film</td>
<td>Spring 2013</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>MGT 498</td>
<td>Green Management</td>
<td>Spring 2013</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAT 298</td>
<td>Introductory Data Analysis</td>
<td>Spring 2013</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 498</td>
<td>Poli-Sci &amp; Sci-Fi</td>
<td>Spring 2013</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tbody>
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Description of logged courses with full titles

ECO 398 – Behavioral Economics

In this course, we will cover a variety of cases where behavioral economics provides valuable contributions to understanding human decision-making. We will talk about addiction and procrastination and the conflict between the desire for instant gratification and long-term wellbeing. We will look at so-called projection bias (which will explain why you should think twice before going to the grocery store hungry), and prospect theory and the endowment effect (the idea that losing something you already possess is worse than not purchasing it in the first place). We will also talk about social preferences, which is the idea that because of the social nature of human beings, self-interest involves a variety of social concerns such as altruism, cooperation, envy, and revenge. Economics is about how people make tradeoffs between scarce resources. Generally decision makers are assumed to be rational; that is they choose what is best for them based on their preferences, whatever those preferences may be. Behavioral economics focuses on deviations from economists’ understanding of what it means to be rational. It incorporates findings, methods, and ideas from psychology into economic theories about decision-making, taking into account the importance of emotions, environment, and the social nature of people. It also looks at the idea that decision-making is, in itself, a process that uses resources in the brain, and these costs end up meaning at a certain point, the cognitive costs of behaving rationally outweigh the benefits.

HON 298 – The Meaning of Materials: Economic Geography and Sculpture

This cross-disciplinary course will tie geographic thought to the materials and processes of creative production. By critically analyzing the globally embedded social, economic and environmental complexities that exist in all material production, students will develop their own artwork that explores the meaning and geographical subtext of the materials from which their creative project is made. Coursework will include lecture, discussion, field trips, and studio lab instruction.

ITA 398 – Italian through Film
This course uses film to help students improve language proficiency and deepen their understanding of modern Italian history and culture. To this end, each text is chosen for its focus on one or more aspects of Italian society. A broad range of films is represented, from postwar classics to modern contributions that not only meditate on the nation's history, but also look to a new Italy, a dynamic and multi-ethnic society. The course continues to refine students' oral and written skills in the target language and provides them with the necessary foundation for further study in Italian.

MGT 498 — Green Management

The course will explore how to manage a business to reduce its environmental footprint. The course will cover the current status of environmental problems, government regulation, ecological economic theory, the principles of process and product design for the environment, and competitive environmental business strategies. The course will emphasize applying theory to case studies and will include tools and techniques for assessing/reducing environmental footprints.

MAT 298 — Introductory Data Analysis

A second course in statistics, focusing on categorical data analysis and design of experiments. The course is meant to be a continuation of a statistical class that covered statistical inference. The class will focus on applying statistical procedures to analyze categorical data and design of experiments. Students will use a statistical software package (provided).

PSC 498 — Political Science, Science Fiction, and the Future

Both Political Science and Science Fiction have an interest in exploring the future; both attempt to project future worlds. In this course we'll look at how major science fiction writers describe future society, culture, and politics.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Gregory Adams