Subject: Minutes of the Curriculum Retreat (final version)
Date: Saturday, April 11, 2015 10:17:41 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Blitz, David (Philosophy)
To: Best, Felton (Philosophy), Blitz, David (Philosophy), King, Audra (Philosophy), Adams, Don (Philosophy), Iannone, Pablo (Philosophy), Foust, Mathew A. (Philosophy), Brewer, Cameron (Philosophy)

Minutes of the Curriculum Retreat Meeting of the Philosophy Department, Friday, April 10, 2015
Present: Best, Blitz, Brewer, Foust, King, Iannone

The following were decided by the meeting:
Note: * items require action by Curriculum Committee

1/ Core courses for the Major
   *a/ Eliminate Phil. 290 and include research methods the first month of Phil. 310
   (*b/ Modify 310 to include (i) research methods and ii) intensive writing component
   c/ Better coordinate writing components of 200 level courses (with the exception of Phil. 221: Introduction to Modern Logic), as preparation for majors who go on to Phil. 310.
   *d/ Include any 100 level course, not just Phil. 112
   *e/ Require Phil. 346: Theoretical and Practical Ethics OR Phil. 344: Topics in Social Justice
   *f/ Add "And one of the following" as per Adams proposal, increasing core to 24 credits and major to 42 credits:

The core would then consist of:

All of the following (24 credits)
*1/ One 100 level course
2/ Phil. 221: Introduction to Modern Logic
3/ Phil. 230: Ancient Greek Philosophy
4/ Phil. 310: Intermediate Seminar
5/ Phil. 330: Early Modern Philosophy
*6/ Phil. 346: Theoretical and Practical Ethics OR Phil. 344: Topics in Social Justice
7/ Phil. 400: Senior Seminar

AND
*8/ One of the following:
   Phil. 250: Introduction to Asian Philosophy
   Phil. 260: African Philosophy
   Phil. 275: Chinese Philosophy
   Phil. 360: African-American Philosophy
   Phil. 376: Buddhist Philosophy

2/ Minor in Philosophy:
   *a/ Remove Phil. 290.
   *b/ Remove reference to REL.

3/ Specializations:
   a/ Maintain specializations as an indicator of the commitment of the department to philosophical pluralism and as a guide for students in the selection of optional courses in the program.
   b/ Students can choose to focus on one or two (or even more) specializations, or none at all, so long as they respect the upper division requirement.

4/ Honors Option:
   a/ Provide better advertisement of Phil. 441: Philosophy Honors Thesis for suitably qualified students as
determined and admitted by the department.
b/ Students taking Phil. 441 will do so in the Spring term, and take Hon 440 (Thesis Preparation, 1 credit) in the Fall term preceding, and Hon 442 (Thesis Completion, 1 credit) concurrently.
c/ Students can write a multi-chapter thesis (35-50 pp), or have the option of two related papers (app. 20 pages each), one of which would be used for graduate applications.
d/ Students completing the honors thesis would present it as poster presentation, or, possibly, via a thesis defense.
e/ This does not constitute a distinct "honors major", but rather refocuses on an existing course already approved by Curriculum Committee (Phil. 441).
f/ Majors doing the honors option will take an additional 5 credits from their general electives (Phil. 441: 3 credits; Hon 440 and 442: 1 credit each)