**CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**

October 14, 2015

Present: Susan Faller-Mitchell, David McCandless, Emily Miller-Francisco, Vincent Smith; Karen Adams, Lee Ayers, Karen DeRoss, Katrina Highland, MaryAnn Neely, Jody Waters

Guest: Vicki Purslow

The meeting began at 10:01 a.m. In the absence of a committee chair, Thorpe asked those present to introduce themselves. Thorpe invited nominations for committee chair, but no nominations were made.

Music

Vicki Purslow joined the meeting to present the proposal for a Bachelor in Music degree. The current BA/BS in Music has seen a significant drop-out rate at the end of the freshman year, and many of these students transfer to a school that offers a Bachelor in Music degree. The Bachelor in Music is considered a more desirable degree because it is a clearer pathway to graduate music programs, and also prepares students better for careers as professional musicians. We want to meet student demand and at the same time attract high quality students. Some of our students who complete the BA/BS in Music have difficulty being prepared for our Master in Music program. If the Bachelor of Music degree proposal is approved, the BA/BS in Music will still be offered, but the two optional concentrations in performance and music instruction will be discontinued.

The degree proposal requires a music core very similar to the current music core for the BA/BS, but students will be required to choose a concentration in either Performance or Music Education. Purslow explained that a music education concentration is more desirable than music instruction; the music education concentration will better prepare students who want to go into teaching. She provided other details and information on the requirements and comparison to the current music degree. Purslow also confirmed that the new degree can be delivered with the current faculty, but with anticipated retirements within a few years these faculty would need to be replaced.

Questions included whether advisors in music are ensuring that their students have the appropriate coursework to enter into teaching programs; why the program didn’t propose this new degree until now; and additional courses proposed. Purslow said their faculty advisors are paying close attention to new requirements for teacher licensure so they can accurately advise their students. For the question about timing of the proposal, Purslow said their leadership has experienced high turnover in the last several years, so even though a need was perceived earlier, the proposal couldn’t be completed until now. Ayers encouraged Purslow to emphasize that the new degree would better serve our students and potentially will improve retention, and will prepare students for their future. Purslow said the BA/BS will not be eliminated, but that students who choose that pathway may be those who can’t master the rigor of the Bachelor of Music. Thorpe asked whether the use of the word “emphasis” is equivalent to “concentration”, and Purslow said it is.

Some changes to the Music Minor are proposed; some of them were proposed by adjunct faculty who recommended including more applied instruction and ensembles. They want to welcome non-majors into the music program.

Details about some of the new courses were discussed. Purslow emphasized that the three-course sequence on the history of rock and roll includes social issues that were current at the time. Adams asked about the grade-only designation for some of the courses, and recommended they consider making P/NP an option; no change was made at this time. For the courses that have been proposed for Strand E and Strand F, it was clarified that students can count the course for one or the other, but not both strands.

The committee discussed pre-major/major status for students; we are going away from the pre-major concept but some programs still use this designation.

McCandless/Faller-Mitchell moved to approve all the catalog changes for Music; the motion passed 4Y/0N/0A. The meeting adjourned at 10:03 a.m.