**CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**

October 21, 2015

Present: Becker, Faller-Mitchell, McCandless, Mercier, Miller-Francisco, V. Smith; Adams, Ayers, DeRoss, Neely, Waters

Guests: Peter Wu, Laura Hughes

The meeting began at 9:01 a .m. New committee members Tim Becker (from Business) and Megan Mercier (ASSOU representative) were welcomed to the committee, and introductions were exchanged. Waters recommended that the minutes from the previous meeting be moved to later in the meeting.

Physics and Engineering

Peter Wu explained that the physics and engineering programs were recommended for cuts as part of the 2014 retrenchment plan. All engineering (ENGR) courses will be discontinued in 2016-17, and the physics degree and minor will be discontinued as well. A large number of physics (PH) courses will be deleted, but physics courses needed for general education and other programs such as biology and chemistry will be retained. They will also keep several of the open-numbered PH courses in case an individual student needs the course for an independent study. Students interested in engineering can take lower division physics courses and then transfer to a school that offers an engineering degree. The current astronomy professor is slated to retire and there is no one at present who can teach those courses, but the physics program hopes to get an adjunct instructor who can offer those courses. Miller-Francisco asked about PH 499 (Capstone), which is listed as a deleted course but also listed as a course being retained; Thorpe will correct this because the course is not being deleted. Faller-Mitchell/Miller-Francisco moved to approve the physics and engineering curriculum changes, as amended. McCandless commented that it is an important program that is being discontinued, and the committee concurred. The motion passed 6Y/0N/0A. (Wu departed the meeting).

Committee Chair

The committee discussed choosing a committee chair for the year. Smith asked for clarification of duties of the chair and Thorpe provided information from her perspective. McCandless suggested that instead of choosing one chair for the year, that the chair duties be shared so that one person would be chair for one term, then the duties would rotate to another person. Another suggestion would be to have co-chairs for the entire year. After more discussion, Miller-Francisco/Faller-Mitchell moved to have Emily Miller-Francisco, Vincent Smith, and David McCandless accept the position of committee chair on a term-rotation basis; the motion passed 6Y/0N/0A. It was agreed between the three of them that Smith would be chair Fall term, McCandless will be chair Winter term, and Miller-Francisco will be chair Spring term.

Chemistry

Laura Hughes joined the meeting. She provided information on the proposed changes, including adding recitations to the labs CH 422, 426, and 427. After discussion of this particular change and whether the proposed “R” courses were needed, it was decided that these three recitation sections do not need to be separate courses and listed as corequisites to the lecture courses; the recitation information will be included in the course descriptions for CH 422, 426, 427. The credits for these courses are increasing from 1 credit to 2 credits; Hughes said students do a lot of work in the labs and the increase in credits is justified. V Smith noted the need to re-visit the increasing credits being assigned to courses across campus. McCandless/Miller-Francisco moved to accept the chemistry proposals as amended; the motion passed 6Y/0N/0A.

October 14 minutes

The minutes from the October 14 meeting were accepted as written.

Next meetings

Dustin Walcher will meet with the committee at the October 28 meeting, beginning at 9:35 a.m. The committee can review mathematics catalog changes in the earlier part of the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.