CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

November 9, 2012

Present: Acklin, Ayers, Clarke, McCandless, Montgomery, Ragsdale, Smith, Stillman, Thorpe

Guest: Paul Pavlich

The meeting began at 10:01 a.m. The minutes from the November 2 meeting were accepted.

History and Political Science

Paul Pavlich, chair of the Department of History and Political Science, was welcomed. Several new courses have been proposed by faculty member Sean McEnroe; most are being taught as HST 399 courses this year. Clarke asked some questions about the relatively narrow course titles and course content proposed for some of the courses, and asked whether these should be more general. Pavlich said it’s not uncommon for departments to offer some courses that are based on specific faculty members’ specializations. He added that the planned course content for two of the cited courses is what is described; it will not be more general. These courses will be electives offered every two years. Other questions: should the 300-level courses have class standing or history major as restrictions? Pavlich said they should not be restricted.

Some corrections were noted for the revised history degree requirements. HST 409 (Practicum) was suspended a number of years ago but this will be reactivated.

The Political Science major has just a few changes to the major. Pavlich noted that the Political Science minor has a mistake in the catalog; Thorpe will make a correction.

Ayers/Montgomery moved to approve all the history catalog changes as presented; the motion passed 6Y/0N/0A.

McCandless/Ayers moved to approve all the political science catalog changes as presented; the motion passed 6Y/0N/0A.

Honors College update

Thorpe provided an update about the Honors College curriculum. At this time, the Curriculum Committee will be asked to go forward with approval for HON 101, 102, 103 (Honors Foundations), HON 243 (Probability and Statistics), HON 301 (Biography: Historical and Contemporary Figures), plus the change in course prefix for the Sophomore Seminars, to HON 250, 251, 252. These courses comprise the freshman and sophomore years of the honors curriculum. The rest of the courses and curriculum structure will be fine-tuned and then re-submitted to the Curriculum in January.

There were questions about how the new honors courses will satisfy the general education goals and learning outcomes; Ayers said the proposals have not been submitted to the University Studies Committee yet. A related question was how HON 101, 102, and 103 are aligned with USEM 101, 102, 103, and whether HON 101, 102, 103 should require the same minimum grade of C- or better before progressing to the next course in the series. (This question will be sent to Prakash Chenjeri for clarification.) Other questions included the oral communication aspect for the Honors Foundations courses, and how to articulate Honors curriculum with non-Honors curriculum if Honors College students withdraw from the Honors College but continue at SOU as non-honors students. Ayers said the Honors College seems similar to the House model, and student proficiencies will need to be considered.

For HON 243 (Probability and Statistics), there were questions about students who may have placed out of MTH 243, and whether they should still take HON 243; whether offering HON 243 in spring term was too late for some students, and how it differed from MTH 243. Clarke was concerned about some language in the HON 243 course proposal dealing with its differences to MTH 243.

Clarke/Ayers moved to approve HON 101, 102, 103, HON 243, HON 301, and to change HO 250, 251, 252 to HON 250, 251, 252. The motion passed 6Y/0N/0A.

Next meetings

Sherry Ettlich has been invited to a Curriculum Committee meeting to explain curriculum changes for Mathematics, but needs to attend at 9:30am because of her teaching schedule. The Curriculum Committee will try to meet at 9:30am on November 16 to accommodate this schedule.

The meeting adjourned at 11:32 a.m.