**CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**

November 4, 2015

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

Guests: Sherry Ettlich, Matt Stillman, Katrina Highland, Alison Burke

The meeting began at 8:59 a.m. The minutes from the October 28 meeting were accepted.

Mathematics programs changes

Smith said he would like to revisit the discussion from last week about the Capstone credits for Financial Mathematics and Mathematics-Computer Science. Jim Hatton provided some additional information about the credits but there were still questions about how to list the requirements so they are not confusing. One of the Capstone courses is offered for 2 credits one term, and 4 credits another term. Some suggestions were made; one solution was to offer as the capstone as 490A and 490B so each course number can have its own set of credits. Another was to list minimum and maximum credits for the capstone. Smith will contact Jim Hatton again with these suggestions.

Cross-listed courses

The issue of cross-listed courses surfaces each year, with pros and cons debated. It’s time to have a more broad-based discussion about this to see if we can identify challenges and needs for cross-listed courses. Greg Jones couldn’t attend the meeting but provided some of his perspective prior to the meeting which Thorpe shared with the committee: our programs should be able to list other programs’ courses which are required or allowed for the degree; the real issue is that as long as we value programs based on SCH numbers, then programs will want to protect SCH by cross-listing courses under their own prefix. Highland said if any restrictions are made to cross-listings, we don’t want to grandfather old courses and only apply restrictions to new courses; we need to address existing courses as well.

There are many complexities and unintended consequences with cross-listings, such as the SCH for a course going to the program cross-listing the course instead of the original program teaching the course. Ettlich said she had thought that course funding was attached to instruction, so that whichever department is providing the instructor gets the SCH for the course. Waters said this is the way it’s supposed to work, but isn’t reflected in all cases. The SCH should follow the subject code.

Some reasons given for cross-listing are that courses that would be valuable electives sometimes aren’t visible if students aren’t looking for them. And sometimes students applying to graduate school need their transcript to show coursework outside their major. But comments can be added to transcripts that reflect all areas, not just the student’s major.

Ettlich said it’s difficult to monitor low-enrollment courses that are cross-listed, because not all the enrollment immediately shows up. We should fix advising problems by fixing advising, not by adding cross-listings. We also need to resolve the financial issue. The committee discussed items on the handouts provided by Enrollment Services which summarizes many of the issues related to cross-listed courses.

Will the Curriculum Committee take on the role of judging whether certain criteria are met for cross-listings? What role does Curriculum Committee want to play? Does it determine whether a course is a good fit for cross-listing? This is not solely the Curriculum Committee’s role, and requires a broader discussion. Smith recommended referring the cross-listing issues to the Academic Policies Committee for review, then revisiting later with APC perspective.

Criminology and Criminal Justice

Alison Burke joined the meeting to present the CCJ catalog changes. Some prerequisites are being removed from several courses to streamline registration and ease enrollment for students. Some of the prerequisites were proving to be barriers to registration because of the timing of the courses. For CCJ 412 and 460, all course prerequisites will be removed, but both courses will have restrictions of junior or senior standing or above. Faller-Mitchell/McCandless moved to approve the catalog changes for Criminology and Criminal Justice; the motion passed 6Y/0N/0A.

Next week

Alissa Arp will attend next week to present the Environmental Studies catalog changes. Thorpe said more curriculum proposals have been coming in so there may be one other program on the agenda. The meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.