**CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**

November 11, 2015

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

Guests: Alissa Arp, Greg Jones, Sherry Ettlich

The meeting began at 9:03 a.m. Smith welcomed Andrew Gay as a new member of the committee, and introductions were exchanged. The minutes from the November 9 meeting were discussed and two corrections were made; the committee accepted the minutes as revised.

Environmental Studies (Environmental Science and Policy)

Jones said that for the COMM 448 (Mediation and Conflict Management) course that is cross-listed with a number of other prefixes, the cross-listings will be discontinued and the course will only be offered as COMM 448. He will notify the chairs of the programs which offer this cross-listing to notify them of this change.

Arp explained the decision to rename the Environmental Studies program and degree “Environmental Science and Policy.” She said the change is of critical importance and is more descriptive of the program. She provided background information about the ES major and said that at the time it was first proposed there was some perceived conflict with other programs in the OUS system. Smith said Environmental Studies degrees usually include humanities components which the SOU program does not include; our degree is correctly an environmental science and policy degree. Arp also said that it’s a mistake to consider that social sciences are not true sciences—they are sciences. Faller-Mitchell asked about the revised title for ES 103; Thorpe will make a correction to the course title.

Jones said our ES degree is about 50/50 science and social science. The committee discussed various issues about the name change. There was some discussion concerning the “approved” certificate associated with the ES degree, but it was determined that the language in question had already been removed from the current catalog. But explanatory language in this section and the section on minors will be reworded for clarity.

For the Certificate in Sustainability Leadership, Smith gave some background, explaining that the certificate used to be housed in Business, but now is part of the Environmental Science and Policy program. Certificates are usually more focused than a minor, and include a significant demonstration of competency. There was a question about adding cross-listings for some elective courses so that students can see the course choices more completely. Thorpe will add relevant cross-listings to the electives list. McCandless moved to accept the curricular changes for Environmental Science and Policy, and the Certificate for Sustainability Leadership, as revised; the motion passed 6Y/0N/0A. (Arp and Jones left the meeting.)

Financial Mathematics; Mathematics-Computer Science

Sherry Ettlich joined the meeting. Smith reported that there have been some updates about the Capstone requirements previously discussed for the Financial Mathematics degree and Mathematics-Computer Science degree. Thorpe explained the answers about the computer science capstone options for the Math-CS degree: if students choose the computer science capstone, they take the entire CS 469, 470, and 471 sequence (12 credits); if they choose the mathematics capstone, it is MTH 490 (6 credits required) and the committee offered suggestions on wording for clarity. Becker/Faller-Mitchell moved to accept the curriculum changes for Financial Mathematics and Mathematics-Computer Science, as revised; the motion passed 6Y/0N/0A.

STEM – new course SCI 110/110L

SCI 110 (Concepts in Science: Energy) has been approved as a G-Strand course for University Studies. Ettlich provided background and said that more general education science courses were needed. Some of the previous courses were associated with faculty who have retired or are nearing retirement, and more courses are needed that can be taught by more than one faculty member. SCI 110 has been developed as an online course (including the SCI 110L lab section) but could be expanded as a face-to-face course in the future. Ellen Siem developed the course with the help of Center for Instructional Support staff. The development included using technology, considering ADA requirements, incorporating assessment, and transferability. Students will purchase a pre-designed lab kit to complete their labs independently.

Faller-Mitchell asked whether a STEM minor is being considered; she would like to discuss this possibility with Ettlich so education students can take advantage of this. Smith said that after the course has been offered, he would encourage Ellen Siem to share her experiences with colleagues about developing and teaching the course.

Adams asked about the use of the SCI prefix, which hasn’t been used before. She asked if the existing SC prefix could be used for the course, since the SC prefix is still considered active. The SC prefix was originally proposed for this course, but Thorpe recommended changing it so as not to associate it with the SC prefix which denoted the School of Sciences, which no longer exists. The committee discussed pros and cons of the two different prefixes; there may not be that many people left who have an association with the SC prefix. Miller-Francisco said the SCI prefix seems to lead to “science” more than the SC prefix does. Chris Stanek will be consulted about the creation of the new SCI prefix as opposed to using the old SC prefix. Smith summarized that the prefix issue needs to be resolved. Thorpe recommended that the committee could approve the courses, and if a prefix change is needed that can be done later as an amendment. Miller-Francisco/McCandless moved to approve SCI 110/SCI 110L; the motion passed 6Y/0N/0A.

The meeting adjourned at 9:59 a.m.