**CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**

October 8, 2014 (revised)

Present: David McCandless, Emily Miller-Francisco, David Oline, Vincent Smith. Ex officio: Jody Waters, Lee Ayers, Jordan Goodson, Erin McDowell, Julie Smith.

The meeting began at 8:30 a.m. The minutes from the April 25 meeting were accepted.

Committee Chair

David Oline welcomed other nominations for committee chair, but said he would be willing to serve again if no one else came forward. David Oline was unanimously approved as committee chair for the year.

Course credit increases

Oline expressed concern that some courses are increasing credits (such as biology lab courses which will increase from 1 credit to 2 credits) and this will have an effect on students’ schedules and ability to enroll in courses outside their major, and it also increases the credit requirements for majors. He would like a broad discussion on this topic. Questions raised by the committee included: is it correct to increase these credits so that it reflects the amount of work required? Could we reduce the credits for the lecture in order to increase the credits for the labs? Thorpe will look at the course changes that have been requested so that more information is available for discussion.

Interdisciplinary Studies degree

Ayers reported that Anne Chambers has proposed a new template for the Interdisciplinary Studies degree, to make it easier for students and advisors to evaluate requirements. This is not a change to the degree, just a better way of displaying what is required.

Meeting schedule

The Wednesday meeting schedule presents problems for some committee members, so the meetings will switch to Mondays at 8:30 a.m., beginning on October 20. Next week we will meet on Wednesday, October 15 at 8:30 a.m., but the following week will switch to Mondays for the rest of the term.

Catalog change process

There are ongoing discussions about the catalog change process and deadlines. We may change the catalog change process and timeline. We’re looking into creating a template for submission of curricular changes, to increase consistency and reduce errors in curriculum proposals.

Undergraduate Studies issues

Ayers gave updates about House curriculum as it relates to University Studies and undergraduate curriculum. Now that the House curriculum has been clarified, there should be a better understanding of the House general education requirements.

Smith said he has learned that there are a number of students who registered for classes but didn’t show up on campus; some said they didn’t know the term had started. Do we need to do a different kind of notification, such as a mailing, so we don’t have this kind of confusion? The committee discussed how best to communicate with students.

The meeting adjourned at 9:23 a.m.