**CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**

February 18, 2015

Present: Faller-Mitchell, McCandless, Miller-Francisco, Oline, V Smith; Ayers, Highland, J Smith, Waters

Guests: Alena Ruggerio, Erik Palmer

The meeting began at 10:00 a.m. The minutes from the February 11 meeting were accepted.

Communication

Alena Ruggerio provided background information on the new and revised proposals submitted for the catalog. She said previous recommendations from Curriculum Committee included requiring more 400-level courses for students, and submitting new course proposals for courses that had changed substantially. The Communication faculty have restructured some of the categories of requirements to more closely match the Communication Studies degree concentration. Highland asked whether the course fees for new courses have been approved; she said to make sure the fees previously approved will apply to the course prefixes/numbers that have been changed. Highland also pointed out that listing the new course COMM 272 as a prerequisite will mean that no students will have taken the course at first, so the former VP 272 should probably also be listed as an alternate prerequisite choice. Waters questioned the need for keeping the Advanced Production Projects (VP/COMM 372) and recommended deleting it; Ruggerio and Palmer agreed. The committee had questions about some specific course changes and requirements and these were discussed and clarified.

There are two new degree concentrations in Social Media and Public Engagement, and in Digital Cinema; the concentration in Film, Television and Convergent Media will be discontinued. Minors are restructured and the current minor in Film, Television and Convergent Media will change to a Digital Media Minor. Eventually the program may propose a Journalism minor or certificate, but not at this time. Waters noted that certain course proposals hinge on specific personnel that don’t have renewable contracts; should there be concerns about this commitment?

Other questions included an explanation of the proposal for COMM 448A, which is for INL students; whether some of the degree requirement categories should be labeled, and clarification about the repeatability of the COMM 472 series (these can be repeated for the same project if the project is still in process.) Ruggerio will follow-up with confirmations and clarifications as needed. McCandless/Miller-Francisco moved to accept the Communication program’s catalog changes; the motion was approved 5Y/0N/0A. (Ruggerio and Palmer left the meeting.)

Biology

Following last week’s approval of Biology catalog changes, J Smith had asked whether there would be transfer articulation problems for the biology courses which will have credit increases. General thought was that if transfer students have met the course requirement, even if their transferred credits for the course are fewer, the students will be viewed as having met the requirement for the major, and credits can be made up elsewhere. The committee discussed alternatives to make up transfer credits or requirements.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.