**CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**

January 27, 2014

Present: Ayers, McCandless, Oline, V Smith, Simpson, J Smith, Sousa, Walsh

Guests: Ken Mulliken, Eric Levin

The meeting began at 10:30am. The minutes from the January 13 meeting were accepted.

Honors College

Ken Mulliken was introduced to the committee. He gave background on the need for open-numbered courses HON 299 and 399 (Special Studies) and HON 209 and 409 (Practicum). The courses will not be required for Honors College students, but may provide more flexibility and opportunities. Simpson asked questions about the variable credit and credit maximums for all the courses, and recommended that the variable credits and credit maximums for the four courses be increased, to accommodate more individual student needs. After discussion, there was consensus to have HON 209 and HON 409 have variable credit of 1-8 credits, with a maximum of 8 credits for each course; and for HON 299 and HON 399 to have variable credit of 1-8 credits, with a maximum accumulated credit of 16 credits for each course. The committee discussed the possible uses of these courses; Mulliken said it is uncertain, at this time, how the courses might align with the students’ majors, or how the planned HON 490 capstone course, which will be proposed next year, will align with students’ capstones in their majors. The Honors College curriculum satisfies all general education requirements. V Smith/Ayers moved to approve HON 299, HON 399, HON 209, and HON 409, with the changes agreed on at the meeting; the motion passed 4Y/0N/0A. Mulliken departed the meeting.

Performing Arts/Musical Theatre Studies

Eric Levin was introduced to the committee. He explained that the primary instructor in charge of the Musical Theatre minor has left SOU, and the department cannot currently deliver the minor as it had in the past. But there is still student interest in musical theatre studies, and most of the courses will continue to be taught. The proposal is to discontinue the Musical Theatre minor, but to have a Musical Theatre Studies Program where the courses would be listed. This is important for recruiting students into the performing arts program, and for promoting the courses. The committee discussed the concept of having a “program” that doesn’t lead to a major, minor, or certificate, and whether students will be interested in pursuing that kind of program. The committee discussed whether the word “program” should be used for the Musical Theatre Studies courses; it was decided that “program” should not be used, because of possible confusion that the list of courses might lead to more than it does, but also because under the current academic reorganization, the word “Program” will now be used to designate what were formerly Departments. Related to the Catalog, Thorpe said that since Musical Theatre Studies will not be a major, minor, or certificate, it doesn’t fit into any of the current categories we have for academic programs, so we will either need to develop a new category, or list Musical Theatre Studies within the introductory text for the Center for the Arts (or for the Theatre Arts program). The committee recommended some revisions to the introductory text, but suggested the changes be taken back to the Performing Arts department for approval. The committee decided to wait for the department to submit revised text before voting on the proposal. Levin departed the meeting.

Emerging Media & Digital Arts

The issue of cross-listing of EMDA 365, ART 365, and MUS 355 has been resolved; MUS 355 will no longer be cross-listed with EMDA/ART 365. The committee discussed the other EMDA changes that have been submitted, including having the list of elective courses in the major and minor match. Some committee members felt the course lists were very long, and that some courses don’t have an apparent connection to EMDA. V Smith/Ayers moved to approve the modified changes to ART 365, the modified EMDA courses, and the changes to the EMDA major and minor. The motion passed 4Y/0N/0A.

Geography

The prerequisite modifications to GEOG 437 (Conservation in the United States) brought up the larger question of whether we should still have both a geography program and an environmental studies program. It was noted that GEOG 437 is still cross-listed with ES 437 (as well as SSPC 437) and the prerequisite changes were precipitated by the ES department, and have already been approved for the ES course. Some committee members felt that ES and Geography are competing programs, and that the geography program was to have been phased out in the last retrenchment several years ago. It was suggested that instead of approving the prerequisite changes to GEOG 437 (and SSPC 437), the committee should recommend deleting GEOG/SSPC 437 and only offer the course as ES 437. After continued discussion, Ayers/McCandless moved to recommend that GEOG 437 and SSPC 437 be deleted, and that Conservation in the United States be offered [only] as ES 437; and to approve the list of deleted GEOG courses that will remain as ES courses. The motion passed 4Y/0N/0A.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.