**CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**

February 24, 2014

Present: Ayers, Grimland, McCandless, Miller-Francisco, Oline, V Smith, J Smith, Walsh

The meeting began at 10:34 a.m. The minutes from the February 17 meeting were discussed. During the discussion, Ayers clarified that the University Studies Committee has moved forward with the second year (E, F, G) proposals for the Houses, and used the current University Studies templates to create new templates for the House courses. Oline asked about the University Studies Committee’s process for reviewing the House courses for meeting University Studies requirements, and Ayers described the process. She confirmed that the University Studies Committee reviews the proposals for University Studies courses (including courses proposed for the House Experience) to make sure they meet the learning objectives and general education goals. Our new emphasis on assessment will include ongoing evaluation of how our general education courses meet learning outcomes, not just when the course is proposed. The minutes from the February 17 meeting were accepted.

House Experience and General Education

Oline has been invited to attend today’s Faculty Senate meeting for a discussion on the House course proposals, House Experience proposal, and general education alignment proposal. He said it was to be a general discussion, and that the Senate wasn’t being asked to vote on the House courses that had been approved at the February 17 Curriculum Committee meeting. Oline said that preregistration for next fall term will begin in 12 weeks, and the House courses that have been approved need to be in place for students to register for them. It’s a disservice to students if we drag this out. There are two issues: to create the courses [and enter them in Banner], and to develop the curriculum for the House program.

Remaining catalog changes

There are a number of catalog changes that still need Curriculum Committee review and approval. There were some changes to the Geography Program and Land Use Planning minor that weren’t discussed earlier, but it was recommended that these be set aside until the final retrenchment plan is completed.

Outdoor Adventure Leadership

The OAL program is changing some of its requirements in response to changes in the Environmental Studies program and other programs. After discussion, V Smith/Ayers moved to approve the catalog changes for the Outdoor Adventure Leadership program; the motion passed 6Y/0N/0A.

Music

As a result of changes to ART/EMDA 365, MUS 355 will no longer be cross-listed with those courses. Changes have been proposed for MUS 460/560 (Special Topic: History). MUS 460 prerequisites of MUS 360, 361, 362 will be eliminated. The committee had questions about why there would no longer be prerequisites for this 400-level course. Grimland said this course doesn’t necessarily require earlier background. David Humphrey will be asked for rationale for eliminating the prerequisites for MUS 460.

Performing Arts

The proposal to create a Musical Theatre Studies program (a loose collection of courses not leading to a degree, certificate, or minor) has not been approved yet; Thorpe will remind David Humphrey to provide some additional information that was requested earlier.

Theatre Arts

TA 230, 231, 232 are proposed to be restricted to theatre arts majors. McCandless will ask for more information about this change.

House Experience/General Education

The committee discussed whether the general education alignment proposal should be dealt with first, followed by the House Experience curriculum proposal. Questions included: is it acceptable to have two general education systems? This is not advisable, and it would make it difficult for transfer students or for transferring in and out of Houses. If we don’t revise our general education program, it’s a disadvantage to students in Houses. Is it possible to leave the D Strand out of the House Experience?

Walsh said she would like to empower Ayers [in her new role of Director of Undergraduate Studies] to lead these proposals forward sooner than later. V Smith suggested that it might be better to have one proposal that includes both the general education alignment and the House Experience proposal, and that gives the reasons for the change, then vote on that. Oline had questions about the shell courses (HSE 101, 102, 103, HSE 201, 202, 203 and HSE 301, 302, 303) and how the specific courses within the shells will be managed. Ayers said that’s what University Seminar has been doing for years, and the USEM courses have been properly managed. The shell structure lays the foundation for something we can do well. Ayers added that we can’t sustain what we’re doing now, and that we need to choose more wisely. After continued discussion about whether the House Experience proposal and general education alignment proposal should remain separate proposals and in what order they should be reviewed, it was recommended that Oline ask Karen Stone to incorporate the two proposals into one larger proposal and resubmit to the Curriculum Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.