**CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**

November 18, 2015

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

Guest: Rachel Jochem

The meeting began at 8:59 a.m. There was one correction to the November minutes and these were accepted as corrected.

Psychology

Rachel Jochem joined the meeting to present catalog changes for Psychology. They have tightened up the language, removed some restrictions in the major, added some biology courses to support the major, and changed some course names. There is a new course proposal for Comparative Psychology (PSY 340). One of the changes is how to declare oneself as a psychology major; the pre-psych major status is not currently being used and they have streamlined the process of being admitted to the psychology major. The committee discussed the concept of pre-major status and the pros and cons of having this.

PSY 457 and 443 have course title changes, but their descriptions have not changed. Some other courses that have psychology major restrictions will have that restriction removed; it is no longer necessary to manage enrollment (or preparation for the course) by requiring students to be a psychology major for those courses.

The committee asked questions about specific courses or curriculum changes; it was confirmed that the psychology major will require that courses be completed with a grade or C or better, and the psychology minor will require that courses be completed with a grade of C- or better.

The committee returned to the issue of pre-major status and whether SOU should have any pre-majors at all. The issue of declaring a major at SOU should probably be discussed at a higher level, and not just be applied to a particular discipline.

Some revised headings in the requirements for the major were clarified; Jochem will send confirmations of these heading revisions.

Miller-Francisco asked about the course title for the new course PSY 340 (Comparative Psychology). She said the course description includes content [behavioral and cognitive abilities humans and nonhumans] that is different from what she thought the course would cover based on the course title, but Jochem said Comparative Psychology is the accepted terminology for this subject in the discipline. Waters asked about information included in the PSY 340 syllabus that said cell phones would not be allowed in the class, and that some students would think this is an infringement on their rights. This led to a lengthy discussion about the use of technology in the classroom, what is appropriate, different learning styles and generational differences. Smith said that the Curriculum Committee should pick up the discussions of pre-disciplinary coding and academic policies on using technology in the classroom at a future date.

For the title of PSY 340, Smith recommended asking the instructor, Mark Krause, about whether it is possible to modify the course title so it’s clear what the course is about. Ayers asked whether PSY 340 would be proposed as an H-Strand course, as it seems like a good fit and more H courses are needed. McCandless asked about prerequisite changes for PSY 499 (Psychology Capstone), and Jochem explained the reason for the changes.

McCandless/Miller-Francisco moved to accept the Psychology changes as discussed and modified; the motion passed 7Y/0N/0A. (Jochem left the meeting.)

CCJ 383

Alison Burke requested that CCJ 383 (Women in Crime) have the prerequisites removed so the course can be used for the Social Science minor. Thorpe said she assumed this must be for the Social Justice minor, as we don’t have a Social Science minor. It’s unclear why the course prerequisites need to be removed in order to include the course in the minor. Otherwise, the committee accepted the request. Faller-Mitchell/McCandless moved to approve the removal of prerequisites from CCJ 383; the motion passed 7Y/0N/0A. Thorpe will ask Burke to confirm the reasons for the prerequisite removal, and the specific minor that will add this course.

Future conversations

The committee returned, again, to the subject of technology use in the classroom, including the use of cell phones to receive safety alerts. There are conflicting views on the subject, and faculty members and students have different reactions to the issue. Waters mentioned preferred ways of learning, and noted that some students are putting their tech devices to good use in the classroom. Miller-Francisco said some students have an over-inflated idea of their ability to multi-task. Becker added that if students are smiling at their laps they’re probably not concentrating on the classroom topic. Smith said the issue of students using tech devices in the classroom is not really a curricular concern, but involves academic policy. Gay said he frequently will check sources on his laptop while listening to an academic discussion, and faculty need to model appropriate use of technology; he asked if this is being addressed in USEM. Ayers recommended conducting a student survey on the issue, and this led to a general discussion of survey use on campus and the proliferation of surveys that students receive; some of these surveys have not had IRB approval so we need a better system for monitoring these.

No meeting next week; the next meeting is December 2. The meeting adjourned at 9:56 a.m.