**CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**

December 2, 2015

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

Guest: Roni Adams

The meeting began at 9:00 a.m. For the November 18 minutes, there was a question about whether the pre-psychology major status has actually been eliminated, or if it is just not being used. DeRoss will check with Rachel Jochem to clarify. The minutes from the November 18 meeting were accepted, pending clarification about the pre-psych major code.

Education (undergraduate curriculum changes)

Introductions were exchanged with Roni Adams, co-chair of the Education program. The undergraduate Elementary Education major will undergo changes necessitated by revisions made by TSPC (Teacher Standards and Practices Commission), the accrediting organization for teaching licenses in Oregon. SOU is streamlining some courses so they can be offered in a distance learning format; other courses have been renamed or revised to provide more emphasis in areas that are needed. There are new assessment requirements, including outside review of videos of student teachers’ work. Another change is that all teachers must be able to teach English learners. Becker asked if the overall credits for the elementary education degree are increasing; Roni Adams said no. The credit increases in some courses are balanced by decreased requirements in some others.

A significant TSPC change is that it has removed the requirement that teachers must have a master’s degree. This could have an impact on our MAT (Master of Arts in Teaching) program, and we may eventually offer a 5th Year education degree such as we had in the 1990s. The committee discussed the ramifications of these changes, including the possibility of a change in graduate student enrollment (and decreased tuition revenue), how school districts will compensate teachers with bachelor’s degrees vs. master’s degrees, and the ongoing evolution of licensure requirements.

Specific questions about proposed changes were discussed. Thorpe said that proposals for some courses listed as new (ED 421, 443, 444, 445, 446) were incomplete and would not be considered today. New course ED 415 (Music for Elementary Teachers) is different from the new MUS 481 (Music in Elementary Schools) because ED 415 focuses on how generalist teachers incorporate music into their teaching; MUS 481 is designed for music teachers. The proposal indicates that adjunct instructors will teach the class, but Adams said that one of their regular faculty members is also qualified to teach ED 415 if necessary. For new course ED 410 (Guide Group: ELED), Smith asked if students are comfortable with the ELED acronym, or whether it should be spelled out. Adams said their students likely know what the ELED acronym means, but the course title can be changed to Guide Group: Elementary Education for clarity. The description for ED 410 includes significant work such as an e-portfolio, and this seems like a lot for one credit. Faller-Mitchell explained that students take the course more than once and not all the work is completed in one term. For the “methods” courses, some of the courses are changing credits, and others are not.

McCandless asked about the Elementary Education with Honors designation, and how Education was able to keep this honors-in-the-major program now that we have the Honors College. It was confirmed that existing departmental honors programs were allowed to remain. There is confusion about the various honors programs we still have, so this may warrant further discussion with others on campus.

As the teacher licensure requirements continue to change, SOU’s teacher education program must be flexible to adapt to these changes. Going forward, each teacher will be licensed for K-12, with specific endorsements for lower and higher grades. Roni Adams said they will also look at the M.Ed (Master in Education) degree to consider possible revisions so they can help teachers grow and provide them what they need.

McCandless/Becker moved to approve the undergraduate curriculum changes for Education; the motion passed 6Y/0N/0A. (Roni Adams left the meeting.)

Future discussions

Smith reminded the committee that it should discuss some broader issues at future meetings, including course credit creep, use of technology in instruction, and pre-major status. He also reminded the committee that he will not be chair next term; David McCandless will chair the committee in winter term. The meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.