**CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**

January 29, 2016

Present: Faller-Mitchell, Gay, McCandless, Mercier, Miller-Francisco, Smith; Adams, Ayers, DeRoss

Guests: Jamie Vener, Adam Elson

The meeting began at 11:00 a.m.; the minutes from the January 21 meeting were accepted.

Outdoor Adventure Leadership

Introductions were exchanged with Jamie Vener and Adam Elson. Elson provided background on the OAL program. The degree has stayed mostly the same since it was introduced several years ago. They have research other programs in the U.S. and around the world, and they have an additional faculty member now so are ready to expand and make some other changes. Vener added that the proposed changes will enhance students’ experience and their risk management ability. Their students enter the program with different skills; some don’t even know how to pitch a tent when they begin the program, so the curriculum will provide some of these basic skills so they can be successful. Elson agreed and said the changes will strengthen the cohort experience.

The committee discussed specific issues for the curriculum. OAL 183 (Trail Running) will be a new course and is activity-based. The question of grade option was discussed; originally it was proposed as P/NP but after discussion it will be changed to optional grade mode, with the grade mode determined each term. For rare instances when a student (such as an international student) needs a grade, the grade mode can be changed with an override. This optional grade mode will be applied to other OAL activity-based courses.

Smith recommended that GEOG 101 and ES 101 be separated on the OAL advising sheet; they are not equivalent courses. They can be listed as GEOG 101 or ES 101 or ES 102 or ES 103; and it was recommended that ES 200 be added to this list as a course option.

Some required courses are offered only once a year; is this a problem for students who may join the program mid-year? Elson said they try to accommodate students by offering some of the courses more than once, or in a different term. Course credits vary in the program; there is a mix of 3-credit and 4-credit courses, based on level of difficulty and work required. Vener said that if they convert most of their courses to 4 credits it would create a problem in faculty workload and ELU limits.

OAL 433 (Outdoor Adventure Literature) was recommended for cross-listing with English; this will be considered. There are no prerequisites for OAL 325.

Smith/Miller-Francisco moved to accept the curriculum changes for Outdoor Adventure Leadership; the motion passed 6Y/0N/0A. (The guests left the meeting.)

Communication (additional changes)

At the Curriculum Committee’s suggestion, Communication has submitted a new course proposal for COMM 482 (Mass Media Ethics and Law), which will replace COMM 481. They have also added some language to the new Digital Cinema minor and Digital Journalism minor to specify that Communication Studies majors can only minor in one of these new minors. Other corrections to earlier changes were also provided. Miller-Francisco/Mercier moved to approve these new changes for Communication; the motion passed 6Y/0N/0A.

Theatre Arts

At the Curriculum Committee’s request, Theatre Arts has made some changes to the earlier catalog changes that were submitted. New course TA 352 will be renamed “Investigating the Text.” New course TA 368 will be renamed “Corset Making.” The course changes for the BFA acting sequence TA 281, 282, 283, 381, 382, 383) will be withdrawn, as the program would like more time to refine the changes they want to make to the courses. TA 381, however, will have a correction—the course prerequisite is TA 283. Gay/Mercier moved to approve all the Theatre Arts curriculum changes that have been proposed; the motion passed 6Y/0N/0A.

The meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.