CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

February 18, 2016

Present: Faller-Mitchell, Gay, McCandless, Miller-Francisco, Adams, Ayers, DeRoss, Waters

Guests: Dan DeNeui, Pete Nordquist

The meeting began at 10:32 a.m. Introductions were exchanged with Dan DeNeui.

Online Social Science Minor

DeNeui gave background on the development of the minor, which includes courses that are all taught online. One reason for the development of the minor is to provide more choices for Business majors who are required to have a minor in another area, and this also works for degree completion students. Program Chairs from Social Science areas provided input on courses that could be included. Currently the proposal includes courses that are already offered online; most of them are also delivered in a face-to-face format as well. DeNeui added that the availability of this minor will take some pressure off the psychology and CCJ minors by providing another option to students.

There were questions about where the minor will be “housed” and how students will find out about it. Can it be linked in the catalog to areas such as business and interdisciplinary studies? In the old printed catalog all our minors (as well as certificates and preprofessional programs) were listed on the back cover, but we don’t currently have a catalog section devoted to our minors; maybe this can be created as a new catalog section. For now, the program will live in the Division of Social Sciences.

Miller-Francisco asked whether students who take the appropriate courses in a face-to-face mode can also claim this minor. DeNeui said taking the courses face-to-face would not preclude students from earning this minor. Adams added that Banner wouldn’t exclude students who took the courses face-to-face. The committee discussed possible revised language for the minor so that “online” wasn’t emphasized. It was decided to change the listing of the minor to “Social Sciences Minor (available online)”.

Will there be a problem with students double-dipping in courses from their major with courses in this minor? What’s to prevent a psychology student from using courses for their major for this minor? DeNeui said to add qualifying statements that required courses and electives cannot be from the student’s major program.

Miller-Francisco/Gay moved to approve the Social Science Minor with amendments as stated; the motion passed 4Y/0N/0A. (DeNeui left the meeting.)

February 12 Minutes

The minutes from the February 12 meeting were accepted.

Computer Science

Introductions were exchanged with Pete Nordquist. He said they will suspend the Master of Science in Applied Computer Science degree.

For the undergraduate curriculum, they are increasing the mathematics requirements, and have changed the prerequisites for a number of lower division courses. There was discussion about the prerequisite wording and there was consensus that the additional wording makes the prerequisites more explicit.

CS 352 (Programming Languages) received close examination. It requires a 400-level prerequisite, which seems strange for a 300-level course. Nordquist admitted that this is unusual and he would be comfortable having CS 352 be a 400-level course, but needs to check with other computer science faculty about this possible change. Another possibility is to adjust the prerequisites so that the 400-level prerequisite has the option of concurrent enrollment. Nordquist will report back to the committee with answers about CS 352. The committee decided to defer any action on the Computer Science catalog changes.

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.