**Curriculum Committee**

Friday, February 10, 2017

**Present:** Andrew Gay, Vincent Smith, Tim Becker, Susan Faller-Mitchell, Emily Miller-Francisco, John Sollinger; Karen DeRoss, Katrina Highland, Jody Waters, Mathew Cable

**Guests:** John King, Mark Shibley, Craig Switzer, Jamie Vener, Joan McBee, Alena Ruggerio, Dan DeNeui

The meeting began at 10:00 am.

**Minutes from 2/3 Meeting**

The minutes from the February 3rd meeting were accepted as written.

**Healthcare Administration**

John King discussed the new program proposal for Healthcare Administration. He said an interdisciplinary faculty team from 8 departments worked on this program proposal. The team was looking to fit a need in the healthcare area around managerial positions. There has been a lot of survey work of existing employment trends and workforce needs. This has shown that there are many pathways into filling clinical roles; for example, community colleges fill technical positions, OIT does well with pre-professionals, and SOU does a good job with pre-med students. The need for those types of pathways is currently being met pretty well. This new program aims to fit the needs of those who want to go into the healthcare profession but don’t necessarily in jobs that require those specific technical requirements. The interdisciplinary team putting together this proposal looked at a set of desired outcomes to map those onto courses currently being offered by SOU. They identified a number of courses to match the desired outcomes and also identified some holes. Those findings were winnowed down to the proposal now being considered. Two new courses are proposed; a PHL course to be taught by Prakash Chenjeri and/or Devora Shapiro, and a SOAN course that would most likely be staffed by one of the people being considered for new hires in COMM or SOAN.

Highland asked for coding and Institutional Research purposes, who should be listed, because the proposed program is interdisciplinary. King said that a program coordinator role is built into the proposal, so that’s who will take care of those kind of issues. He said, regarding Banner, the SCH will go to the course prefix. Waters said we’ve run up against student coding issues in the past, and it’s often best to have us research the program and propose who should be listed. The program coordinator wouldn’t be the appropriate person to handle student grievances, for example, so we would need to establish someone to fill the chair role. We need to know how those kinds of things will be managed. Highland said it’s important to have a Director of record so students have a clear point of contact.

Highland noted that the credit listing in the proposal incorrectly lists Bio 101L as 1 credit, so that should be fixed and the total credits updated. She also said that because COMM 399 is a requirement for the new program, it will need to be hard-numbered. Ruggerio agreed that a new number will be proposed as part of the proposed changes for COMM. Highland asked if the SOAN and PHL new courses will be lower or higher division, and also asked about how long the program will take students to complete. King said they will be lower division. He said that the SOAN course is intentionally right in the middle of sociology and psychology. Two of the primary audiences are likely to be transfer students coming from a community college and quite possibly SOU students who may find that the clinical route doesn’t match their interests. Creating a program that could reasonably be accomplished in 2 years was an intentional goal. DeNeui said that the SOAN course that has no number should be SOAN 338. King added that the PHL course is designed to align with a course that is at the 200 level at RCC.

DeRoss pointed out that PSY 225 has a 1 credit co-requisite lab, PSY 225L, so the credits should be updated. Also, some courses have prerequisites; for example, statistics is a prerequisite for PSY 225. Waters asked why MTH 243 is not included in the requirements. King said that it comes back to the idea of contextualized learning. The SOAN course in the Data Analytics Concentration is not just to talk about applying statistics writ large, but more about working specifically with healthcare data. Referring to the Community Public Health Concentration, he said a lot of work has been done statewide around tracking health data sets. Within a general statistics course in the math department, like MTH 243, unless there’s a dedicated section for health data statistics, the instructor would have to have a particular interest and commitment to use population health data sets. Otherwise, the statistics used would not be contextual for the Healthcare Administration students. Shibley said that in creating the program there was a feeling that a data analytics course may not make sense for all students in the program; some may just not want to do that curriculum. However, if they do a Data Analytics Concentration it makes more sense. He discussed the SOAN 327 class that he teaches now and that the new hire will teach; that person will be working with those more relevant data sets. The course has a prerequisite of statistics, however, other students come in without that prerequisite. He said he’s less interested in the math behind the statistics, and more interested in the applied statistics. Ruggerio said that when the community was surveyed regarding what skills they wanted the graduates to have, the replies indicated a strong desire to have graduates who can interact face to face and have people skills, so we tried to find a good balance of so-called soft skills and technical skills. Waters asked who would be the person to wave a student through the PSY 225 to MTH 243 instead if they wanted a more math-heavy statistics course. Shibley said for our purposes what’s really important is the hands on work with data, not the actual math behind statistics. Waters asked if nevertheless a student does want to have the math background, who’s going to guide them that way; it wouldn’t be the coordinator. Shibley said PSY 225 and SOAN 327 have more in common with each other than with MTH 243. DeNeui said that both candidates for the SOAN position have a health focus to them and both are equipped to teach research methods. There’s a real opportunity to have that focus in these courses, or down the road perhaps even a standalone course. McBee said that in her data analytics class Katie Pittman uses healthcare examples a lot.

Faller-Mitchell asked about the connection with nursing community and how involved nurse practitioners and licensed nurses will be. King said that’s one of the conversations we’ve had; the program outcomes are really targeted toward the population of people who already have a clinical background in place who are looking to expand their role or move into a different role. One of the concentrations is Personnel Management, and there are a number of courses in the core curriculum that would build the skill set to manage effectively within a unit.

Highland asked if credit for prior learning is being explored. King said yes. The new program proposal mentions that the program includes elements of a competency-based education model and there is interest in exploring what that looks like. The proposal currently doesn’t have CPL built in, but there are places where it makes sense. Waters said we currently cannot get CPL for any other program than INL. We plan to develop that policy this year and could make this part of the conversation. Highland said some students will be coming in with CPL and may request it. Waters said for INL we have only had one person request that in two years of having it for INL, so it’s not likely to be a large group, and it shouldn’t be too much of a barrier.

Smith mentioned current human service majors and said that some might be better fit for what’s being proposed. DeNeui said it serves a bit of a different population, and it’s more of a convenience for students currently working and taking night courses. King said that there are a number of populations that come to us with a limited knowledge of the possibilities available to them. Some don’t fit our existing options very well. This provides another possible option that may fit better for some. DeNeui said this is probably the case not just for human service students. He said he recently received a letter from a former student in which she mentioned that her dean is nervous because psychology is hemorrhaging majors because a health science program had started. Smith said he thinks if we don’t do things like what’s being considered, we will become worthless as a University. Shibley said he teaches several students now who would be a better fit for this than SOAN. King said next year we’ll be bringing forth a more streamlined certificate version of this, which may fit better for those who do want other majors but still want this background. He said we’re also hoping to attract new students, not just cannibalize existing programs; we see this very much as an enrollment growth driver. Gay noted that the proposal projects strong growth in 5 years. King said Jeanne Stallman couldn’t attend today or she would speak to that, but we’ve had a number of studies show the increasing demand for this.

Highland noted that INL offers 5 week courses and asked if different offering styles for Healthcare Administration are being considered. King said no, not at this point because we’re trying to build from existing courses. As it becomes more concrete and robust, that becomes more of a possibility. That will probably make a lot of sense 3 or 4 years down the road.

Faller-Mitchell asked about an option down the road for a masters degree. McBee said this idea has come up again and again in our conversations and conversations with employers. We decided to start here, but looking down the road we may head that direction. Highland asked about a possible MBA concentration. McBee said we’re thinking about that. King added that there is some competition in the state which might be an issue. Faller-Mitchell asked if maybe it would just be attractive for locals. Waters said there are online offerings, and we would really have to carve out a niche; it might be a real challenge.

Cable said that a large number of concentrations for similar programs elsewhere require a nursing license or other certificates, so they’re drawing in nurses and others with similar training. Is that something we’re considering? King said once we have the foundation built, yes, there’s a great opportunity.

Faller-Mitchell said she is impressed by the variety of the outcomes; the program covers a lot of area.

Smith/Becker moved to approve the new program proposal for Healthcare Administration, including the new courses, with the following changes:

* Hard number COMM 399
* Add course numbers for SOAN and PHL courses
* Correct and update listing of credits

The motion passed 6Y/0N/A.

Smith volunteered himself to speak on behalf of this new program at Faculty Senate if needed.

**Course Modification**

Gay summarized prior discussions by Curriculum Committee about the issue of course modification and how to determine when a new course is more appropriate.

Smith said that with regard to the CCJ course that raised this issue, we got in touch with the program to ask their opinion and they, perhaps unsurprisingly, thought a new course was not needed. One issue is that we don’t necessarily have the expertise to judge the curriculum of the program in question.

Highland said that one test that can be helpful is to ask the question “will the student get credit for taking the course again?” Gay said that one idea discussed was to take a look at the syllabus. Waters said yes, the syllabus is one thing we can look at to help decide. Another thing to consider is the student experience; would students know they’re taking the same course while they’re taking it. Also, it would be worthwhile to clarify why it’s not advantageous to recycle course numbers. Gay said it’s also important to keep in mind the role the course plays in the curriculum. Waters agreed, but said that’s not a reason to mess around with the curriculum.

Highland said when we have students who say they should get duplicate credit, we say the program determined that it is the same course. It’s up to the programs to address these issues so they’re not creating problems for students.

The meeting ended at 10:52am.