**Curriculum Committee**

Friday, March 3, 2017

**Present:** Andrew Gay, Vincent Smith, Tim Becker, Emily Miller-Francisco, Susan Faller-Mitchell, John Sollinger; Karen DeRoss, Karen Adams, Jody Waters, Lee Ayers, MaryAnn Neely

**Guests:** Dustin Walcher, Erin Wilder

The Meeting began at 10:00am.

**Minutes from 2/24 Meeting**

The minutes from the February 24th meeting were accepted as written.

**History & Political Science**

Dustin Walcher discussed the proposed changes in History and Political Science. He said the proposed changes are mostly housekeeping. The program is continuing to try to move 400 level to 300 level courses in cases where the content in the 400-level course is not more difficult and the higher number might discourage students from taking it. Another change is to bring back HST 300 and move the Atlantic history courses into the world history requirement. The goal with these changes is to get better student outcomes; this should help address challenges in the research process and with the defining of questions. This also allows for greater flexibility, allowing the program to teach the Atlantic section every other year, which will make it possible to expand class offerings. Walcher said that the History major moved from 72 to 64 credits years ago; the current changes maintain that while making sure that students take courses in non-US history.

Regarding Political Science, the changes propose bringing back the world politics course. It will provide students with more theoretical founding. The hope is that when one of the current faculty lines is replaced the program will be able to find someone who can teach this course, but current faculty can teach it in the meantime. The new course, HST/PS 393, is being created in part because the program hasn’t been able to offer environmental history, and they would like an H strand course that can be offered more frequently. HST/PS 393 may be offered in the summer. Faller-Mitchell asked when the program would like to teach it. Walcher said as soon as possible; he wanted to offer it this summer but the process didn’t work quickly enough to allow that.

Adams asked if PS 300, the course cross-listed with HST 300, will also be brought back. Walcher said no, we’re not bringing that back; we’ve integrated methods into PS 311 and we’re happy with that.

Waters mentioned the COMM civic engagement sequence and said that COMM might have dropped or added courses that you might want to talk about with them. Walcher said he had a conversation with Alena Ruggerio last spring, during which she said she was going to sit tight on some of the things that might change. Walcher said we’re happy to keep looking at that.

Waters said the new HST/PS 393 looks like a good class.

Adams inquired about the renumbering of International Law. She noted that it’s not repeatable, and wanted to confirm that students will not be getting credit if they took it under previous number. Walcher said that is correct, it’s the same material, just a different number.

Waters asked about the 300-level vs. 400-level courses in History. She asked if the content is really at the same level in both. Walcher said that at the upper division level, with very few exceptions, the content and delivery of courses are the same, only the topics are different. Waters asked about expectations and assignments; are they the same for 300 and 400 level courses? Walcher said one of the reasons we’re trying to migrate from 400 to 300 is because that doesn’t accurately represent the way things work in the discipline. Waters suggested that she and Walcher should chat, pointing out that the institution is accountable to its accreditors to make sure that the numbers reflect the expectations. We need to be able to document that we are consistent with regulation, and demonstrate that we’re adhering to our academic policy on that. Walcher said if we need to do renumbering we can. Waters suggested that Matt Stillman can also speak to issues around the transferability of our credits, but we should chat.

DeRoss asked if HST 300 was a prerequisite for upper level courses in History. Walcher said in the time he’s been at SOU it’s only been a prerequisite for the capstone. DeRoss asked if it is being added back as prerequisite for the capstone. Walcher said that was not in what was submitted, but it might be worth considering.

Adams asked what is more important regarding the coding of prerequisites: lower division prerequisites or upper division standing. Walcher said upper division standing is more important; he can sign students in for the prerequisites. Adams said we can make it so prerequisites aren’t enforced in the system.

Waters asked about the honors history course and why it has a non-grade option. Walcher said it shouldn’t, let’s remove that option.

Waters said we will make time to have a discussion regarding the renumbering issue, but we can move to approve the changes for now.

Miller-Francisco/Faller-Mitchell moved to accept the proposed changes in History and Political Science, including changing the grade mode of HST 415H to Graded (A-F) only; the motion passed 5Y/0N/1A (Sollinger joined the discussion in progress and chose to abstain from voting).

**New Course Proposal Form**

Waters provided context around the class maximums conversation. She said we set a class maximum for courses (number at which we no longer accept students), but we also want to set a number to clarify how many people we expect to enroll and seek to enroll. This can help manage workload, and also there’s CBA language that says we need to schedule as close as possible to what we expect to enroll. One issue is students being turned away when they come to a faculty member with an irregular registration. It’s been a complex and worthwhile discussion but it requires more thought up front so there’s not as much management needed on the back end. One proposal is to include a proposed class maximum on the new course proposal. That corresponds with the idea that if we have over-enrolled classes there might be adjustment of load or additional compensation. As of now, we’re thinking about a pretty simple box on the form, but it would require some discussion with the Chair.

Smith said that a proposed class maximum is one way to address the issue, but there could also have a note to “see table” because there are circumstances when things are scalable. Also, the thought process might be different for courses that are also online.

Gay said COMM is moving Intro to Film Analysis to a larger lecture course if he teaches it, but if someone else teaches it, it would be a smaller course, so how can situations like that be captured. Waters agreed that we need some way of capturing the possibility of variation. Maybe we need a range, or some check boxes, we’ll consider that.

Smith also pointed out that there are multiple proposed class maximums (banner class max, class max, etc.). Waters said Karen Stone would need to talk to that. There are various ways we need to make decisions and reflect why we do what we do. Smith said it will be different for different programs too.

Adams asked if the banner class maximum does not work for this, wondering if that is because people override it to get in. Waters said yes.

Smith recommended that the Committee table the discussion of changes to the new course proposal regarding class maximums.

**Education**

Erin Wilder discussed the proposed changes in Education. She said she is the interim undergraduate Chair for the program, filling in for the time being. For ED 410 Guide Group, she mentioned a change to what was submitted. The course is currently repeatable for up to 4 credits, and the submitted changes added “4 total credits required” of ED 410 under the Pedagogy Strand. Instead, they would like to keep it repeatable for up to 4 credits, but only require 3 credits. Wilder said some of the changes include hard numbering courses which have been offered under a soft number previously: ED 424 and 425.

Waters said it looks like there are some graduate-level changes proposed which may not have been seen by Graduate Council. She will get in touch with Graduate Council to make sure they’ve received everything.

Adams asked about deleting ED 491. Wilder said we haven’t taught it that she knows of. Adams asked if they might want to suspend it rather than deleting it. Wilder said yes, let’s suspend it instead.

Faller-Mitchell/Smith moved to accept the proposed changes in Education with the following two edits:

* In the Pedagogy Strand of the Elementary Education BA/BS - 3 (not 4 ) credits of ED 410 will be required.
* ED 491 will be suspended rather than deleted.

The motion passed 6Y/0N/0A.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40am.