**Curriculum Committee**

Wednesday, May 3, 2017

**Present:** Andrew Gay, Tim Becker, Vincent Smith, Emily Miller-Francisco, John Sollinger; Karen Adams, Jody Waters, MaryAnn Neely

**Guests:** Dan DeNeui, Rachel Jochem, Chris Stanek, Sherry Ettlich, Hala Schepmann

The Meeting began at 9:00am.

**Minutes from 4/12 Meeting**

The minutes from the April 12th meeting were accepted as written.

**Social Sciences**

Dan DeNeui discussed proposed changes in Social Sciences. He said the Division wanted to create special studies courses that are within Social Sciences but are not tied to any specific program. This came out of the discussion of enrichment courses. These courses have been offered under the UGS prefix prior to now. Marjorie Trueblood-Gamble had some courses that seemed to fit under Social Sciences but there was nowhere to “park” them. The Division worked to find an available prefix that would be appropriate. There were some old prefixes that it didn’t make sense to revive.

Neely noted that an SSC prefix exists, we don’t create prefixes with the same description (“Social Sciences”). Adams said that Chris Stanek had a reason that SSC could not be used; SSC had been a placeholder and was removed from reporting, so the SCH wouldn’t be counted.

DeNeui said the Division has been using the UGS prefix and asked if it matters where we house them as long as they serve the needs of the students.

(Chris Stanek joined the meeting)

Stanek said yes, the prefix SSC has been excluded from SCH reporting, and there are also a ton of IT reports that exclude that prefix. Undoing that might pull in some stuff that we don’t want in enrollment counts. He also said that another, perhaps more compelling reason not to use the SSC prefix is that we did use that code for a while and it probably rolled up to an old school of Social Sciences; if we piggy back on the same code and change the hierarchy it will cause confusion when we run historical numbers. He said we try to avoid proliferating new subject codes but in this case it’s a necessary evil.

(Stanek departed)

DeNeui said that the changes regarding Geography are cleanup. Geography was eliminated as a program, but we noticed last summer that we’re still running Geography courses even though we’re saying we don’t have a Geography program. In the proposed changes we’re divvying up the courses we still want to teach.

Smith said that geography courses which have been cross-listed with other programs are also being kept, but having the Geography cross-list removed.

Smith/Sollinger moved to approve the proposed changes in Social Sciences; the motion passed 5Y/0N/0A.

**Psychology**

Rachel Jochem discussed the proposed changes in Psychology. PSY 299 had been created to satisfy requirement for PSY 228 and 229, so this is a teach out. Waters said that if it is taught for more than three terms a new course number would need to be created for it. Jochem said that probably won’t be a problem, she doesn’t think there are any students at this point. DeRoss asked if there might be any returning students. Jochem said she doesn’t think there are any that are out there that would have this issue.

Smith/Miller-Francisco moved to approve the proposed changes in Psychology; the motion passed 5Y/0N/0A.

**Biology & Chemistry**

Ettlich discussed the proposed changes in Biology and Chemistry. She said the changes represent an attempt to find a way to better meet the chemistry needs of biology students and manage staffing. Schepmann said that the general chemistry lectures are very large (150 students), so it is important to have 1 on 1 time in the lab. Over past few years the program hasn’t had the faculty lines to staff the labs, so they’ve had to use adjuncts. The financial situation isn’t improving so the program wants to find a fix. Having faculty in the labs to do reminders/safety issues, etc., will help with the loading. In the fall there tend to be 5-6 general chemistry labs, and there are 2 recitations offered; as the number of labs decreases, fewer recitations are needed.

Waters asked about the ideal number of students to have in recitations. Schepmann said ideal is what we have now, 24. With any more than that, it gets harder to have them ask questions, and to make sure they’re present. Smith said that it seems like it may be more difficult to schedule if the proposed changes are approved. Schepmann said yes, but some good will come out of it too. The quality of the instruction will be more consistent.

Ettlich said the rationale behind some of the other proposed changes is to pull lab prerequisites so students are taking just what they need rather than there being a more general package for everyone.

Neely asked if recitations are graded. Schepmann said students get one grade for the lecture/lab/recitation.

Waters said that programs have done a lot to accommodate faculty resource management and curricular needs, and this is one of those cases.

Ettlich said biology is changing their chemistry requirement, and there will be a new, adjusted sequence which gives biology students a good general chemistry background for all of their biology studies. This has been a goal of biology for a while. Pre-professional students have a wide variety of needs depending on the professional program they’re hoping to enter; these proposed changes allow for different mixes. We’ll be carefully advising students on which of the two tracks would be best for them (CH 331, 350, 346 or CH 334, 337, 335). If a student gets excited about the organic course, then they can then take the organic sequence and they’d have a leg up. Schepmann said if biology students want a chemistry minor they’d have to take the bottom track.

Smith said that it is good to offer students more options, but that means the advising load grows. Schepmann said the challenge is that our chemistry majors take a year of organic chemistry, while biology students have taken one quarter, so we have to manage how this serves both populations. Gay asked about how many biology majors there are. Ettlich said that there are almost 200.

Waters asked, regarding advising, if this will be much of a change. Schepmann said it will be a change, but people from the program will go into spring quarter general chemistry lectures to talk to the students to get ahead of it; something similar will have to be done on biology side too. Ettlich said that these students are a captive audience, because they’re either in one course or the other.

Gay asked about new recitations and how they might affect students from past catalogs who don’t have a recitation. Ettlich said those students did have a recitation, it was just represented differently. Scheppman agreed and said they’ve all had recitations. Smith added that if a student wanted to change to a later catalog we could do an override. Ettlich said it should be fairly transparent to students. Adams said that on the DegreeWorks side it’ll show that the course satisfied that requirement for them.

Smith/Becker moved to approve the proposed changes in Biology and Chemistry; the motion passed 5Y/0N/0A.

**Sociology and Anthropology**

Vincent Smith discussed the proposed changes in Sociology and Anthropology. Smith said that it has been an ongoing conversation trying to keep the SOAN and Psychology majors in the same place with regard to GPA—there are human services majors who need both—so the proposed change to the GPA requirement is to keep them together and tighten the language. The other change is what was discussed earlier at this meeting by DeNeui.

Waters said that regarding the GPA requirement it is worth noting that we don’t have any grounds to remove students from the major. Smith said we can require them to retake courses until they get a better grade. Waters said we do sometimes have students who don’t want to leave the major.

Becker/Miller-Francisco moved to approve the proposed changes in Sociology and Anthropology; the motion passed 5Y/0N/0A.

**Environmental Science & Policy**

Vincent Smith discussed the proposed changes in Environmental Science and Policy. He said ESP agreed to take on one of the GEOG courses (approved above as part of the Social Sciences changes). The other change is a name change to ESP 100 because of a mistake. The Committee determined that no vote was needed because it was just a correction.

**Criminology and Criminal Justice**

The proposed changes in Criminology and Criminal Justice are the addition of x99 courses, as discussed by DeNeui in the proposed changes for Social Sciences.

Miller-Francisco/Sollinger moved to approve the proposed changes in Criminology and Criminal Sciences; the motion passed 5Y/0N/0A.

**EMDA**

The proposed change in EMDA is to reverse a renaming proposed in their approved changes earlier this year. Gay said EMDA 203 – Digital Interactive Foundations was going to be renamed Digital Web Foundations, but after that change was approved, the Chair said after discussion it was decided that it’s better not to change the name.

Miller-Francisco/Smith moved to approve the proposed changes in EMDA; the motion passed 5Y/0N/0A.

The meeting ended at 9:47am.