**Curriculum Committee**

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

**Present:** Andrew Gay, Emily Miller-Francisco, John Sollinger, Anna Oliveri, Vincent Smith; Karen Adams, MaryAnn Neely, Donny Nickelson, Lee Ayers, Jody Waters.

**Guests**: Dustin Walcher.

The meeting began at 9:00am.

The minutes from the November 1st meeting were accepted.

Gay discussed the catalog language issue that came up at the last meeting regarding majors, minors, concentrations, etc. and overlap. Waters said the university does have a policy, but it sounds like we need to take a better look at the policy. Adams added that in what Sherry Ettlich proposed last week there was significant overlap between the major and the minor (Mathematics major, Applied Statistics minor). Smith agreed about overlap being part of the issue, but pointed out that another consideration was that the logic behind wanting to have this minor in addition to their major made sense for the students; employers might look more favorably on a candidate who can show a good background in statistics. The question is whether we want there to be concentrations; in the retrenchment they were “removed” but several programs didn’t actually remove them. Waters said they didn’t really go anywhere. Smith said other universities have transportable concentrations. Gay said this is similar to some of the issues encountered by Curriculum Committee when discussing modified courses versus new courses: the language leaves room for interpretation. Adams said that Academic Policies Committee may want to consider language to set a basic standard for making judgements; for example, if more than 50% of the courses are shared by a major and minor a student can’t get both.

**History and Political Science**

Dustin Walcher discussed the proposed changes in History and Political Science. He said the changes proposed are minor “housekeeping” changes. The program proposes to suspend some courses, including some that were cross-listed with Business, and to renumber PS 436 as PS 312. PS 312 is included in the new Healthcare Administration major and now it won’t be a Political Sciences majors only course, so it’s being renumbered and altered to be more appropriate for that additional audience. The proposed new course, HST/PS 329 represents an opportunity for an American History course that will also be able to count for the Political Science major. Walcher said that, as much as possible, the program works to create courses that can be useful for both of those majors.

Smith asked for clarification regarding the courses proposed to be suspended. For example, PS 430B, which is cross-listed with Business. Waters asked if Business knows about the proposal to suspend the Political Science part of that course. Walcher said he believed he had a correspondence with Joan McBee about this when she was chair of Business.

Adams asked about suspending rather than deleting the course, saying that if the program thinks it would come back within the next 5 years suspension makes sense; otherwise, it would be better to delete it. Walcher said he had no objection to deleting these courses. The program usually chooses to suspend courses to have flexibility in case they want to teach it again, but he doesn’t have an instinct that this batch would be reinstated.

Ayers asked regarding the new course, American Legal History, whether Walcher expects that there might be seats available for CCJ students. Walcher said it is unlikely because other similar courses tend to be fill up completely.

Waters asked about the renumbering of PS 436 to a 300-level course. Walcher said the readings will change and this course will be taught more like the way an integration course would be taught. Waters asked the Committee members if they would want to see any more documentation about how the content will change, for example a new course proposal. She asked if Committee members felt like they had seen sufficient information to vote on the change. Adams asked Walcher if a student took PS 436 in a prior year, would that same student taking the renumbered course be allowed additional credit. Walcher said no, not in this case, the course is basically the same. Gay asked a similar question but from a different angle: if a student took PS 312 would it count for the PS 436 requirement. Walcher said yes, the way the Political Science degree is set up, PS 312 will still fit in the elective concentrations where PS 436 currently fits. He said the program has very few upper division courses that everyone has to take; instead, there’s a menu of options a student can choose from to fulfill category requirements.

Adams noted that the current prerequisites are 201 or 202 and asked if that would change. Walcher said the program has added “or upper-division standing” to make it available to more students. Adams asked if for coding purposes the upper division standing part is more important than the other prerequisites. Walcher said yes, for coding purposes you can just restrict it to upper division standing and we can deal with the other students through exceptions.

Neely asked about the new course, HST/PS 329, and where it will fit in. Walcher said in History it will contribute to the US History requirement, and in Political Science it is listed under the “select 2 courses in Public Law” section. It has also been added under “choose any 2 courses” in the Political Science civic engagement section.

Gay asked whether Committee members felt comfortable with the justification for renumbering PS 436. Nickelson asked if there will be a note in the catalog and something in Banner to avoid students retaking the course without knowing that it was renumbered. Adams said yes, it will be made clear in Banner and the catalog.

Smith asked whether the Political Science courses that are cross-listed with Business should be removed pending Business approval. Waters clarified that the policy requires the program removing the course to provide evidence that the other program (in this case, Business) was notified. Walcher was able to find an email that confirmed awareness of these changes on the part of the Business program.

Miller-Francisco/Sollinger moved to approve the proposed changes in History and Political Science; the motion passed 5Y/0N/0A.

Sollinger asked about whether the Committee would be getting a student representative. Gay said someone had been in touch with ASSOU and they said they were working on identifying a student.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30am.