**Curriculum Committee**

Monday, February 5, 2018

**Present:** Andrew Gay, Vincent Smith, John Sollinger, Emily Miller-Francisco, Laura Jessup, Anna Oliveri; Jody Waters, Lee Ayers, MaryAnn Neely, Katrina Highland.

**Guests**: John Roden, Robin Strangfeld.

The meeting began at 9:30am.

The minutes from the January 29th were accepted.

**BIOLOGY**

Highland explained that the proposed change to renumber BI 318 to BI 461 is not in fact a renumbering of BI 318 or reinstating what used to be BI 461, but a hard numbering of what is currently being taught as BI 411. A new number will be found to avoid confusion with the old BI 461. Because there is a co-requisite lab, the program will create 2 new course proposals and 2 split-level proposals.

Smith asked about the removal of the Junior level standing prerequisite from BI 348. Roden said there are a number of lower level students who want to take the course, and if they have taken 200 level coursework they’re ready. Waters pointed out that according to Parker’s notes in the justification for the proposed changes, the Junior standing restriction was only there because of history.

Smith asked about the proposed reduction of credits from 4 to 3 for BI 346 – Biogeochemistry. Roden said some students had been floundering in the old field sequence. At the time, the students weren’t taking any organic chemistry elsewhere, so some organic chemistry was being covered in this course. Now the major has changed and students are getting organic chemistry elsewhere, so it doesn’t need to be covered in this course. That’s why the program proposes to reduce the credits.

Highland pointed out with regard to BI 454L that 0 credit labs didn’t use to have an acalog description. They don’t show up on transcripts, so catalog descriptions are not really needed. This doesn’t impact scheduling, it’s just an issue of having something to hyperlink to in the catalog when it’s listed as a co-requisite. Gay asked if this means there’s no need for a new course proposal in this case. Highland said that is correct.

Sollinger asked about the proposed removal of BI 381 and 387 and noted that they’re University Studies integrations courses. Roden said the program would like to delete BI 381, which is not being taught. For BI 387, he said the better option is to suspend the course. The current instructor is retiring, but suspension would allow the option for a new faculty member to teach it if they want to and have load to do so.

Sollinger/Smith moved to accept the proposed changes in Biology with the exception of the renumbering of BI 318 (the program will instead find a new number and create new course proposals and split-level proposals for this course and its lab, to be considered at a later meeting); the motion passed 6Y/0N/0A.

**CREATIVE ARTS**

Strangfeld discussed an issue with clarity around CW 220 and 230, which are currently prerequisites for all the Creative Writing major courses, but are not included in the list of required courses for the major. The program would like to add them to the requirements for the major to make the actual requirements more clear to students. Right now, the major listing is misleading. Waters asked if CW 220 and 230 should be grade mode optional, as they currently are. Ayers pointed out that CW 280 and 281 are E strand courses and now have prerequisites, which we try to avoid. Gay asked if University Studies explorations courses are allowed to have prerequisites. Ayers said allowed is a tricky word, but it’s definitely not encouraged. This course has been re-prefixed several times in the evolution of the Creative Writing program. It was encouraged to make CW 220 and 230 the E strand courses at Curriculum Committee last year. Strangfeld said she would be happy to see if that can be done.

Smith/Sollinger moved to approve the changes in Creative Writing, including adding CW 220 and 230 to the Creative Writing requirements listing and adjusting the credits accordingly; the motion passed 6Y/0N/0A.

**EMDA**

Strangfeld discussed the proposed changes in EMDA, which include hard numbering several courses. She said the program has been abusing the 399 classes, so this is an attempt to address that issue. The proposed EMDA 305 and 405 (which will need new number) are examples of this hard-numbering. Gay asked about EMDA 463: the course proposal says it’s replacing 362, is that really the intention? Strangfeld was not sure. Highland noted that the course proposal doesn’t have a grade mode listed and asked if it should be graded only. Strangfeld said yes. Waters pointed out that it is proposed to be repeatable for up to 8 credits and there are no prerequisites. Smith suggested that we may need to invite faculty who teach in EMDA to come speak to the committee and help resolve some of these questions.

Highland noted that the default on grading in EMDA courses seems to be optional, so it seems like they may want people in other majors to be able come in and take them.

The Committee agreed that it will be best to table the EMDA changes and find time for Miles Inada and Warren Hedges to come speak to the Committee.

**ART**

Strangfeld said that the proposed changes in ART clean up a lot of things. She said ART 375 was a 399 that is now being hard numbered. BFA students are getting a lot of much-needed attention in that class. They do individual projects and get extensive critiques. Highland noted that it’s repeatable for up to 16 credits and asked if it would be okay if a student were to use this course to fulfill all of their requirement. Strangfeld said yes, that would be fine.

Highland asked about the grade mode. Strangfeld said there are different ways the program’s faculty like to think about grading. Highland said students can run into difficulty with pass/no pass courses and GPA limits or major GPA requirements. Strangfeld said her vote would be for the course to be graded only, which would make it similar to other courses like it.

Smith asked about faculty for the new courses. Strangfeld said existing faculty would be used, and that the program is going to rotate faculty more. Highland asked about the number of cross-listed courses in Creative Arts. Strangfeld said that EMDA basically has no faculty of its own, so this is a way to reduce barriers and open these classes to more students. Highland said it would be better to cross-reference courses in this case; it’s not good practice to use cross-listing for publicizing of courses.

Miller-Francisco/Oliveri moved to approve the proposed changes in ART with the exception of the cross-listed new courses, and with the additional change to make ART 375 graded only; the motion passed, 6Y/0N/0A.

The meeting ended at 10:19am.