**Curriculum Committee**

Thursday, April 26, 2018

**Present:** Andrew Gay, John Sollinger, Emily Miller-Francisco, Vince Smith; Lee Ayers, MaryAnn Neely, Katrina Highland, Tiffany Thom.

**Guests**: Anne Connor, Ken Mulliken, Dale Vidmar.

The meeting began at 1:30pm.

The minutes from the April 19th meeting were accepted.

Gay updated the Committee on the question of changing the name of the Language and Culture BA. After checking, it was determined that we do not need HECC approval to make this change, but we will let them know about it by sending it as an information item.

**FOREIGN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES**

Anne Connor discussed the proposed changes in Foreign Languages and Literatures, continuing the discussion from last week’s meeting. She said the proposed changes are mostly cleanup. There was some old language that needed to be removed. One of the proposed changes to the Spanish major is to require all courses taken for the interdisciplinary culture core to be upper-division. The program had been accepting some 200-level courses, but in retrenchment decided to require 300-level courses or higher. The program agreed on this change but it didn’t get changed in the catalog, so we want to make sure that gets changed.

Highland asked about SPAN 406 and 408, which are proposed to have as prerequisites “SPAN 312 or any class at the 400 level.” Connor said that some students have Spanish heritage but take a different 400 level class, so we want to make it broad enough to cover them. Highland said the proposed prerequisite can’t be enforce in the system. Connor said it would be best to instead have as prerequisites for those courses SPAN 312 or instructor approval.

Neely noted that the program proposes removing lower division courses from the interdisciplinary culture core and asked about the classes that may also be accepted for this requirement. Connor said the list of courses that may be accepted include many of the typical ones students are likely to take, including several courses in other prefixes, but there might be new courses that have to do with Latin America that will be accepted. Smith asked how the program handles courses like SOAN 319 or other topics courses where the topic isn’t always related to Latin America. Neely suggested that such courses could require approval. Connor said this sounded good.

Connor said the program would like to remove the “Admission to the Major” section, and also talked about the required GPA. There are currently two GPAs listed in the major requirements. Students must have a minimum 3.0 GPA in the language of specialization and a 2.5 GPA overall. Highland said we generally can’t require an overall GPA higher than the 2.0 required for getting a baccalaureate degree. There are also issues with requiring a GPA in the language of specialization rather than in the major. It’s hard to get a GPA in the language. Connor said she had generally been calculating GPAs in the major anyway, rather than in the language of specialization. Neely said changing the requirement to a 3.0 in the major would work. Connor said she would like to make the change to 3.0 in the major. She said that’s the way she’s been doing the advising, so changing it to won’t change anything for the students really. Neely clarified that the new requirement will be a minimum 3.0 GPA in courses required for the major, and the requirement of a 2.5 minimum GPA overall will be removed. Smith said in his department and some others, we sometimes see GPAs listed but don’t actually enforce them. People put through petitions to get past them. Highland asked about getting rid of the admission to the major section. Connor confirmed that this should be removed, there is no process for admission to major anymore.

Gay noted that the some of the Culture, Composition, and Conversation courses all have the same name, and asked why they’re not Beginning French Conversation I, II, and III, for example. Highland said many other schools use I, II, and III. She said Psychology has the same issue, and other schools sometimes call to ask if the courses are different. Adding roman numerals would clarify things. Connor said some courses in Foreign Languages and Literatures do have those roman numerals and she would like uniformity; she proposed adding roman numerals for courses that have identical names.

Smith/Sollinger moved to approve the proposed changes in Foreign Languages and Literatures, including the following changes:

* The prerequisites to SPAN 406 and 408 will be SPAN 312 or instructor approval;
* The “Admission to the Major” section will be removed;
* In “Requirements for the Major,” the GPA requirement will be changed to a minimum 3.0 GPA in the major, and the 2.5 overall GPA requirement will be removed;
* All sequenced courses with identical titles will have roman numerals added (for example, FR 106, 107, and 108 are all titled “Beginning French Conversation;” they will be changed to Beginning French Conversation I, II, and III).

The motion passed, 4Y/0N/0A.

**HONORS COLLEGE**

Ken Mulliken discussed the proposed change in Honors College. He said the Program proposes to break HON 490, currently a 4 credit course, into a 3 course sequence. Students would take HON 490 for 2 credits in fall, then HON 491 for 1 credit in winter, and HON 492 for 1 credit in spring. He said the background for this proposal is that approximately 60% of students have requested an E or an I in HON 490 as it is currently set up because 1 term is not long enough to adequately research and complete a project of this length with literature review and proper documentation required. He said that for a couple years has urged students to do the literature review over the summer. Some students have done this and some have not. This proposed new way of handling the course was requested by the students. Ayers said this change will also allow the instructor to have loading which follows the students. Currently, the instructor ends up having loading after the term in which they teach the course, so this allows the time built into their scheduling to meet the demands of the student. Gay asked if there would be any issues if a student was off the regular schedule or hoping to graduate in a different term. He asked if there’s a workaround for that kind of thing. Mulliken said that scheduling is always a problem, especially when his students have to take a sequence, like Biology. He said the Honors College is small enough that he usually just works with those students individually to address these issues.

Highland asked if HON 490 would be set at 2 credits or if it should be variable. Neely asked why make new courses rather than just have students repeat HON 490 and make credits variable. Mulliken said he discussed the issue with Karen Stone and she suggested that it would work out more clearly to create new courses. Smith said he thinks the loading is still likely to be off somewhat, but that’s probably unresolvable. He said it’s very time consuming to do this work with students. Ayers said that one of the plusses is that we’ve been able to have a very small class. There were 10 students this last winter. She said there is an opportunity to look at loading with more students. Smith said that what has been presented here looks fine to him, it was just an issue on his mind. It’s important for students to have the time with the faculty member, but it is difficult to get the loading correct. Neely asked if roman numerals should be added for this sequence. Highland said yes, numerals would be a good addition. Mulliken agreed.

Smith/Sollinger moved to approve the proposed changes pending receipt of new course proposals and the addition of roman numerals to the sequence; the motion passed, 4Y/0N/0A.

**LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE**

Dale Vidmar discussed the proposed changes in Library and Information Science. He said the substance of the proposed course, LIS 186, was already approved by Curriculum Committee earlier this year as USEM 186. The Library had been planning to bring a course like this, but the USEM 186 came about through another group, so the USEM 186 course was held back from being sent to Faculty Senate for approval and the Library decided to do what the program was originally planning and create the course with an LIS prefix. He said it’s a good supplementary course to provide valuable help for students and it’s also a 2 credit course that can help students maintain their status for financial aid and progress toward their degrees.

Highland asked if this means that USEM 186 will be taken off the table and this course will be put in its place. Vidmar said yes, we want it to be a clear part of the group of courses with USEm 185 and 187. Ayers said we want it to be very transparent for the student. We want them to be able to find it and know it’s part of a sequence. She said we also want the folks responsible for the course to be included. She asked if it could be listed in a way that would allow it to be pulled automatically when students are looking at the other courses in the group.

Gay asked if right now it would be the only LIS course. Vidmar said it would be the only one offered, though there are other LIS courses listed which haven’t been offered in a while.

Gay said that it seems like students know to look at Undergraduate Studies for these types of courses. He said he would think that it might make sense for the courses to be Undergraduate Studies rather than University Seminar. Ayers said there was a lot of discussion around this, some of it was about feeling the stake in this. Ayers said that she doesn’t want the 186 course to get buried and be hard for students to find, and she wants them to understand how it fits into a larger group. She said University Seminar would not object to using the UGS prefix for these courses, we just want visibility for students. Highland asked if students have to do them sequentially. Ayers said no. Smith asked if this is an example where a cross-listing makes sense. Highland said this would be cross-listing purely for marketing purposes, and we can’t do that. Ayers said that if the Library weren’t able to staff it, it would still be offered through University Seminar. Highland suggested that it might be possible to put something in the course description help clarify this group of courses for students. Smith said it’s already difficult to get students to take a non-required course not in their department. Ayers said these courses will be suggested by faculty when students need the skills or support. She said these courses fill right now, and a lot of that is because of guidance provided by faculty. Smith said in that case it sounds like the prefix wouldn’t matter as much. Highland said she would recommend going with UGS for the 185 and 187 because some students have a slightly negative perception of USEM. Miller-Francisco added that transfer students who come in might share that negative perception and be discouraged from taking these courses. Smith noted that LIS would be totally dependent on other programs to market the 186 course to students. Ayers said the programs are not territorial, so this shouldn’t be an issue.

Miller-Francisco/Sollinger moved to accept the proposed changes in Library and Information Sciences and University Seminar, including the following:

* The new courses previously approved as USEM 185 and 187 will become UGS 185 and 187;
* The new course proposed as USEM 186 will be removed;
* The new course proposed as LIS 186 is approved.

The motion passed, 4Y/0N/0A.

The meeting ended at 2:25pm.