**Curriculum Committee**

Thursday, October 18, 2018

**Present:** Larry Shrewsbury, Anna Oliveri, Michael Stanfill, Erin Wilder, Emily Miller-Francisco; Tiffany Thom, MaryAnn Neely.

**Guests**: John Roden, Alma Rosa Alvarez.

The meeting began at 1:32pm.

The minutes from the October 11, 2018 meeting were accepted.

**Biology**

John Roden discussed the proposed changes in Biology. He said the proposed new course, BI 221 is based on the Junior seminar. Students loved that course but said it would be much better to take it earlier in their college career. Many of the things the course prepares students for require people to apply well before the summer of their Junior year, so the program now wants students to get that experience at the Sophomore level or even perhaps during the spring term of their Freshman year. The course focuses on skills like developing and submitting applications, taking different standardized tests, etc. The only difference with the new version of the course is that it will now not be required but a highly recommended option.

Oliveri asked why not make it a requirement. Roden said it doesn’t need to be required because of the content. The senior seminar is required because the students take an exit exam, which is not the case with this course. If a student absolutely can’t take this course the program doesn’t want it required. In the past, the program has had to submit petitions when students want to opt out, but they don’t want that to be the case going forward.

Neely said that on older catalogs students have had this requirement waived in some cases because the course hasn’t been offered. Roden said waiving it was becoming a hassle. Neely asked if credits will be reduced in the current catalog and people on older catalogs will have the requirement waived. Roden said yes. Neely said that Waters will need to approve this. Roden said it would be fine to have students take the new version, BI 221, to fulfill the requirement if that’s preferred. He said it’s the same course essentially, the program just wants students to take it earlier. Ayers said she thinks this is an example of the program adapting to meet the needs of students. Neely said she will talk to Waters about the people on past catalogs.

Neely asked whether the program would prefer to suspend BI 488 or remove it completely. She said the program would have to bring it back as the same course if they were going to bring it back. Roden said deleting the course rather than suspending it would be fine.

Miller-Francisco/Oliveri moved to approve the proposed changes in Biology with one alteration: BI 488 will be deleted rather than suspended. The motion passed, 5Y/0N/0A.

**English**

Alma Rosa Alvarez discussed the proposed changes in English. She said the program is proposing to remove the prerequisite of ENG 301 from ENG 492 because that course is part of a forthcoming proposal for a certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) that is a collaboration between English and Education. She said people who want that certificate will not all be English majors, so they won’t have had to take ENG 301, and succeeding in linguistic courses like ENG 492 doesn’t really require the background in literary analysis and theory provided by ENG 301.

Thom noted that removing ENG 301 as a prerequisite would mean that there are no restrictions for ENG 492, so a brand new freshman could take it. Alvarez said it would be good to make completion of USEM 103 a prerequisite.

Oliveri/Wilder moved to approve the proposed changes in English with one alteration: USEM 103 will be added as a prerequisite to ENG 492. The motion passed, 5Y/0N/0A.

The meeting ended at 1:47pm.