**Curriculum Committee**

Thursday, October 25, 2018

**Present:** Laura Jessup, Larry Shrewsbury, Anna Oliveri, Michael Stanfill, Erin Wilder, Emily Miller-Francisco, Noheli Serrano; Tiffany Thom, MaryAnn Neely, Jody Waters.

**Guests**: Prakash Chenjeri, Jim Hatton.

The meeting began at 1:30pm.

Members of the Committee introduced themselves to the new representative from ASSOU, Noheli Serrano.

The minutes from the October 18, 2018 meeting were accepted with one correction: Laura Jessup was not present, so her name was removed from the minutes.

**PHILOSOPHY**

Prakash Chenjeri discussed the proposed changes in Philosophy. He said that when the program hired Justin Harmon two years ago he brought with him a background in continental philosophy. Previously, students had expressed interest in some continental schools of philosophy like existentialism, but the program’s faculty didn’t have the background to offer such courses. Harmon also has a background in the philosophy of art, which is why the program is able to offer a course on that subject, which was introduced to the catalog in the last cycle. The proposed existentialism course asks big questions like what is the meaning of life, what does choice mean, etc.

Waters noted that the enrollment estimates in the proposal seem low, especially if the course becomes a University Studies course as proposed. Chenjeri said that having a few more students than expected will be fine, but the reason the expected number started small is because first year courses haven’t received the same publicity as more established courses, so the program wanted to play it safe. Also, the instructor is still fairly new to campus. Jessup asked if the cap would be 30 and mentioned that she noticed that the course is writing-intensive. Chenjeri agreed that it is writing-intensive and said that the program had looked at placing the cap at 25 students.

Waters asked for the reasoning behind making it a 200-level rather than a 300-level course. She said that the material is challenging and the assignments look like they may be appropriate for a higher-level course. Oliveri asked what level of students the program expects would take the course. Chenjeri said that he was reluctant to speak for the instructor, who was unable to attend this meeting because he was teaching, but when the program proposed the philosophy of art class last year a similar thing came up, and he believes the instructor took the feedback from that discussion into consideration when proposing this course. He said that the question about whether it might be a higher-level course may be one of the reasons the first year enrollment estimate is 15 and not higher, to see how it goes.

Waters noted that the syllabus says other texts will be made available and asked if there will be other assignments made in addition to what’s listed. Chenjeri said this doesn’t mean there will be additional texts assigned, but that some of the texts will be available on Moodle, with the intention of saving students money on texts. Waters said it would be good to clarify that.

Jessup asked if it might be a better fit at the 300 level from the perspective of University Studies—it may seem a more natural fit in the Integrations strands rather than the Explorations strands. She said it looks like a really interesting course, but she works with a lot of freshman and she worries that a high percentage of the freshmen would not be successful in this course. Thom asked if the program would consider adding a prerequisite like USEM 103. Chenjeri said that it’s meant as an introductory class, so the program would not want to restrict it. He said that some of the readings look challenging, but they’re only selections, and the program wants students to read the original material. Oliveri said that 200-level Chemistry courses are often challenging to students and she thinks it’s good to expect that kind of work from freshmen. For example, she said, we expect weekly lab reports in our 200-level Chemistry classes.

Wilder/Oliveri moved to approve the proposed changes in Philosophy; the motion passed, 6Y/0N/1A.

**MATHEMATICS**

Jim Hatton discussed the proposed changes in Mathematics. The proposed changes include a new course, MTH 493 – Financial Mathematics Capstone. Hatton said that Mathematics and Business put together a major called Financial Mathematics, which integrates courses from business and mathematics and includes a capstone requirement. Currently, students can choose to do a Business capstone or Math capstone, but there’s no capstone that focuses on the mathematics of finance. Some students weren’t satisfied with either choice, so Daniel Kim and Curt Bacon got together and decided to design a capstone experience more fitting for those students. It would be a team-taught class where the students are supervised by faculty from both programs.

With regard to the deletion of MTH 421F, Hatton said the program doesn’t teach it currently and doesn’t plan to teach it in the future, so it makes sense to remove it.

With regard to the Math education capstone, he said the program has had an experience like this but hadn’t yet formalized it in the catalog. He said Mathematics has a process like this for their Honors students and they decided to make this capstone experience work like the Honors experience. The program wants to have it in the catalog so students can clearly see the steps. For the regular Math capstone there’s a 2 term sequence, for Honors students there’s a 3 term sequence, and in Math Education there will be a 3 term sequence.

Neely asked about the overall credits for the Financial Mathematics major. She and Hatton agreed to look at the issue after the meeting.

Waters said the proposed new course looks good; she likes the team teaching approach and thinks it’s loaded correctly.

Oliveri/Miller-Francisco moved to approve the proposed changes in Mathematics; the motion passed 7Y/0N/A.

The meeting ended at 1:57pm.