**Curriculum Committee**

Thursday, December 6, 2018

**Present:** Laura Jessup, Larry Shrewsbury, Erin Wilder, Emily Miller-Francisco, Anna Oliveri; Tiffany Thom.

**Guests**: Linda Wilcox Young

The meeting began at 1:32pm.

The minutes from the November 29th meeting were accepted.

**ECONOMICS**

Linda Young discussed the proposed changes in Economics. She said the program is only requesting one extra line in the requirements section. Unlike other majors, Economics has not had a C- or better requirement, so now the program would like to add that. We’ve seen a number of students with D’s who then don’t get the required 2.5 GPA and have to go back and retake courses.

Oliveri said this proposed change seems like it will preemptively help people know what they need. Wilder said it will also help the program have a conversation with students when they need to bring their grades up.

Jessup asked how common the C- requirement is. Oliveri said Chemistry has that requirement. Wilder said there is even a B- requirement for MAT students. Young said that there is also a similar requirement for USEM. Oliveri said this is one of the things that makes our students stronger, we make the students retake when they haven’t really understood the class and that helps them down the road.

Oliveri/Miller-Francisco moved to approve the proposed changes in Economics; the motion passed, 5Y/0N/0A.

**INTERNATIONAL STUDIES**

Young discussed the proposed changes in International Studies. She described the major, noting that it is interdisciplinary, and that there are no faculty members in IS. For the few IS prefixed courses, of which there are just a handful, the program has to get people from other programs to teach them. International Studies has a faculty advisory committee from different programs. The program is very dependent on programs across campus to actually offer the courses IS students need, and the other programs are under no obligation to do that. Also, other programs should keep IS informed about changes to their offerings. The first proposed change is basically housekeeping, adding courses to requirements and removing others; some are not being offered any more, some seem appropriate to include. Another change is to the world studies and country and regional studies lists in the major’s core requirements. Students have to take 3 from each list. Historically, we’ve had a sense that we want to make sure they take from different disciplines, and not take too many courses from the same prefix. The program has been advising that a student couldn’t have more than 2 courses from one discipline in either list, but the way the catalog is written doesn’t agree with that. Jessup noted that she had difficulty understanding what that meant, so it would be good to clarify the catalog. Young said she would be happy to work on the wording but want to make sure we approve the change. Because of the nature of our major, we’re trying to be flexible for our students. The lists of options look long, but often some aren’t being offered, so it gets very difficult for students to have a good number of options. It’s already a very multidisciplinary degree. Oliveri said if the program is already advising it this way, it seems to make sense to make the catalog agree. Thom asked about possible petitions relating to this change. Young said this is actually loosening up requirements, so there should be fewer petitions going forward.

Young said the final change is to the foreign language requirement. That requirement has been proficiency at the 3rd year level of a single foreign language. The requirements for getting a BA already requires completing a second year of a foreign language. We thought for International Studies it makes sense to have more of a language requirement. The problem is that we only teach one foreign language at the 3rd year now, Spanish. So, if anyone wanted a language other than Spanish they’ve been forced to study abroad. Studying abroad is not a requirement of the IS major, though many do choose to do so. We haven’t required it because of place bound students or those without the resources to make that a viable option. The proposed change is to add the option of doing 2 languages at the 2nd year level. Oliveri asked if it is more work to do 2 years of 2 languages rather than 3 years of 1 language. Young said that it is more time, but it seems like the best alternative in the circumstances.

Shrewsbury noted that the IS major’s research methods requirement lists NAS 380 as an option, which doesn’t appear to be offered any more. Young said this course hasn’t been taken out of the catalog yet so the program didn’t want to remove it. Young said some courses were removed when she knew the program doesn’t plan to re-offer them. Sherwsbury said it seems like you’re making things easier for the students. Young said it can be hard for students in IS to navigate Degreeworks and know what they need. Many study abroad and come back with credits that Degreeworks doesn’t immediately recognize, which requires petitions. Oliveri asked if students tend to go to same study abroad places. Young said there are some popular places but there are many options, and as long as the student is studying language intensively at the 3rd year level it works.

Wilder/Jessup moved to approve the proposed changes in International Studies; the motion passed, 5Y/0N/0A.

The meeting ended at 2:01pm.