**Curriculum Committee**

Friday, January 18, 2019

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

**Guests**: Cindy Hutton, John Taylor.

The meeting began at 1:32pm.

The minutes from the December 6th meeting were accepted.

**MUSIC**

Cindy Hutton discussed the proposed changes in music. She said the changes clean up some of the language and add clarity for students. The program proposes removing requirements 6 and 9 in the Bachelor of Music and BA/BS in Music because the courses identified in those sections are already included in the requirements listed below and having them in both places confuses things. Some changes are also proposed to the language about auditioning for the Music program. Incoming students need to declare an area of expertise. The program first needs to see that they’re performing at the college level. Incoming students audition at beginning of Winter term before they come, then again at the beginning of the year when they show up. Neely noted that students are entered as majors when they come in to SOU, there are no longer pre-majors, and asked if we need to clarify that, and if there needs to be a way of removing students from the Music major if they aren’t performing up to the level expected. Hutton said the program has to accept every student who wants to be a Music major, so there are the “70 series” lessons (MUP 170, 270, 370, 470) to get them ready to get into the more advanced 90 series. Oliveri asked if the program often sees students who haven’t passed the audition taking it again. Hutton said it is usually passed one and done, and the students tend to self-select pretty quickly. She said the program also wants to change the requirements for the 70 series MUP courses so they are no longer restricted to music minors or instructor permission. She said some students wanting to take those courses are Music majors who are taking another instrument, so the program wants to allow them to take the 70 series courses for their secondary instrument.

Regarding the proposed new course, MUS 210, Hutton said it is a continuation of efforts to recognize the symbiotic relationship between culture and music. Traditional music history has focused on the western canon, but we have a culture in our region particularly interested in country music. This new course will give our students and others (because it’s an online class) an opportunity to study in depth a genre that’s current, and this course coincides with other classes that we see as sequential: hip hop, world music, and rock and roll. The program is excited because they feel they’re now offering students and the community a series of courses that will be very interesting to them. Oliveri asked if this course would focus on American country music only, or also Canadian country/western for example. Hutton said that Dr. Purslow will teach this course next spring, and she’s currently on sabbatical collecting some of the information that she’ll use. Hutton said she imagines Purslow will be excited to consider expanding the scope of the course at some point. Ayers noted that this course was proposed for E and F strand, and was approved by the University Studies committee pending approval of the course by Curriculum Committee. Thom asked if the program would open to making the course grade mode optional to accommodate students interested in taking it Pass/No-Pass. Hutton said yes, that would be best, and said that the program is interested in changing the grade mode for a number of their 200-level courses. She said they will submit a separate request for that.

Hutton said that the addition of MUS 198 to the list of acceptable large ensembles in the core requirements for the Bachelor of Music and the Music BA/BS is just correcting an oversight. It was left off of the list accidentally, though the 300-level version of the class is already included on the list.

Jessup/Oliveri moved to approve the proposed changes in Music with the minor amendment to make the grade mode of MUS 210 optional; the motion passed, 6Y/0N/0A.

**PSYCHOLOGY**

John Taylor discussed the proposed changes in Psychology. He said one goal of the changes is to simplify a complicated curriculum. He said in addition to being complicated, the curriculum makes it difficult for transfer students to get the correct courses in the appropriate sequence. The proposed changes will mean there’s a single menu to choose from rather than three, and only a single capstone. Students will have a good collection of projects they’ve worked on by the time they get to the capstone course. He noted an error in the materials submitted: the number of upper division credits required should stay the same, not go up to 38; also, there should only be 3 electives required rather than 4 electives. Students will take one less capstone course, but will have more credits required before that. He said the program is expecting a lot of majors to want to switch to this new catalog because it will be quite a bit more flexible. He said it will also simplify the program’s work. Ayers asked if the program intends to continue offering both capstones until it’s taught out. Taylor said yes, the program plans to continue offering both for at least for a year or two.

Taylor discussed the proposed new courses. He said PSY 360 is actually just a renumbering of 460 rather than a new course. Neely noted that other programs use PSY 460 and asked if the program has had any conversations with them. Taylor said he didn’t realize other programs use it and will check with them about making the proposed changes.

Taylor said that he actually considers it an intermediary course and he has found that the numbering of courses is sometimes inconsistent. He said one of the things the program is worried about is having too many 400 level courses, which means that sophomores in the program aren’t going to have enough options. This can lead to over enrollment in the available 300 level courses.

Taylor discussed the prerequisites for PSY 360 and said he actually thinks it would be better to have PSY 202 as a prerequisite rather than PSY 370.

Discussing the proposed new course in Positive Psychology, PSY 411, Taylor said the program is fine not having any prerequisites at all for the course. Jessup said she was looking at the assignments for the course and trying to figure out what the most appropriate level for the course might be.

Thom noted that the proposed new Capstone, PSY 425, lists a lot of prerequisites. Taylor said the program does want those prerequisites. Thom said the system can’t monitor the “12 credits from” a list of courses, so it would be up to the advisor to manage.

Jessup noted that the new course proposals for all three proposed courses just say “Extremely well” in response to the questions “How does this course align with the unit’s mission plan?” and “How does the course fit into the rest of the unit’s curriculum?” She asked if the Committee should get more specifics on these questions. Taylor said that in the case of PSY 425, the program has a 2 course capstone now, so switching to a single course capstone streamlines things very well for students who will have already taken a long sequence of courses. Students will be expanding on something they worked on in a previous class and it will also have a career component built in.

The Committee decided it would be best for the program to make corrections and alterations to the proposed changes before voting on them.

The meeting ended at 2:20pm