**Curriculum Committee**

Friday, February 15, 2019

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

**Guests**: John Roden

The meeting began at 1:32pm.

The minutes from the February 8th meeting were accepted.

**BIOLOGY**

John Roden discussed the proposed changes in Biology. He said there are a lot of changes proposed, in part because the program has two new faculty members and one new affiliate faculty member.

Regarding the proposed human anatomy and physiology labs, BI 364L, 365L, and 366L, he said they are proposed to solve a problem. Some students need a 300-level anatomy lab to get into certain programs like dental schools and physician assistant programs. He said most professional schools generally have their own human anatomy courses, but these specialized programs want students to have taken an upper level human anatomy course before they arrive. Roden said the courses in the 200-level human anatomy and physiology lab sequence are service courses, not intended for Biology majors. Students don’t get credit toward their Biology major for them. He said the program has 300-level anatomy courses without labs. The students in the new labs would be in the same class as the 200-level labs, but would have additional requirements. He said there is no co-requisite relationship between these courses and the current 300-level anatomy lecture courses because the faculty member who teaches the current lecture courses can’t teach anything else during the fall with his other loading, so he teaches BI 361 during winter term and alternates 362 and 363 in the spring (362 one year, 363 the next). Wilder asked if OHSU would have any reason to object to this. Roden said no, we’re basically already doing this now, just with irregular registrations. Oliveri asked about the additional work the 300-level students would be expected to complete. Roden said they will have to do some literature review and an oral presentation. Wilder asked if there are likely to be more than a handful of students who will want to do this. Roden said that is not likely unless other types of professional schools start to require it. He said the main issue is that irregular registrations are a pain, so this proposal will avoid them. Shrewsbury said it sounds like an efficient use of the labs. Roden mentioned that this course should be treated like a split-level course except instead of a 400/500 split-level, it’s 200/300.

Roden discussed the proposed new Neurophysiology course, BI 315. He said it will be taught by new faculty member Brie Paddock, who does work with fruit flies, Alzheimer’s, brain degeneration, and more. He said the program all of a sudden has an abundance of expertise with the addition of new faculty and affiliate faculty. New affiliate faculty member James Bower is the head of American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Pacific Division. He’s retired, sort of, having been a professor at Cal Tech. Roden said there have been some conversations with Psychology about possibly looking into creating a minor in Neurophysiology. He said BI 315 will be a new addition, but not a new load. Chris Oswald used to teach BI 414, Advanced Animal Physiology. Jessup asked how often was BI 414 was offered. Roden said once every other year. Jessup asked if BI 315 and 430 would be alternating. Roden said BI 430 will be alternating as a capstone, but not during the same term. He said BI 414, Advanced Animal Physiology, which will be offered during winter term every other year, will always be a capstone class. During the years BI 414 is taught, the program won’t teach the proposed new course BI 430, Neurodegeneration. Then, in the winter of the following year, Paddock will teach BI 315, Neurophysiology, which is not a capstone. So, explained Roden, instead of a winter capstone, in those years the program will offer BI 430, Neurodegeneration, as a spring capstone. He said BI 315 may become a prerequisite for BI 430, the Neurodegeneration capstone, though now BI 314 or 315 are only a recommendation for students considering BI 430. He said Neurodegeneration is a new class but is solely a capstone. He said the program tries to cap these at 12 students but might go up as high as 15.

Waters asked about the reference to “mothballing” Chris Oswald’s BI 413/413L course. She said she’s curious whether this means either suspending or deleting the course, or keeping it in the catalog but not offering it. Roden said the problem with keeping it in the catalog is that people then think it might be offered. Waters explained what it would mean to suspend the course. Roden said that is what the program would like to do.

Jessup noted that BI 430 has BI 213 as a prerequisite and asked how many Psychology students actually take that. Roden said there would need to be some advising around this in Psychology. He said the Biology program has been talking about the Biology minor possibly being attractive to some Psychology students, and that would require some of these classes. Jessup asked if the idea is to have BI 213 as a prerequisite for BI 430 and just make sure it’s handled in advising. Roden said yes.

Oliveri mentioned the recommendation for students considering BI 315 that they have one year of general chemistry. She asked how many Biology students will have not taken one year of general chemistry. Roden said all Biology majors need to take it, but they sometimes wait. Oliveri said she sometimes sees Biology seniors in her general chemistry class. She asked if Biology would let a student take BI 315 without that year of general chemistry. Roden said yes, the goal is for the prerequisites to be a caution flag, so students come and have a conversation. He said sometimes prerequisites become a barrier for transfer students. Oliveri said she would recommend just the first term of general chemistry as a prerequisite. This wouldn’t be a hold up for someone transferring in. Thom said the program can always do overrides. Roden said this becomes more onerous for students. Thom said we see a lot of students get in trouble when Banner allows them to take a class they aren’t prepared for.

Roden discussed BI 355, Pathophysiology and Pathogenesis. He said new faculty member Patrick Videau replaced Kathleen page, who always taught her immunology course during fall term. That course has been very popular and will continue to be taught. The program decided that it needs additional elective courses for biomedical students, so BI 355 will address that. He said this course is similar to Immunology in that there will be a lecture and no lab. These two courses will alternate in fall term, and students spending a couple years with us could take both if they want. Oliveri asked if she understood correctly that Immunology was being taught every year and now it will be taught every other year in rotation with this new course. Roden said yes. Jessup asked if there are students who need Immunology who will be disadvantaged by this plan. Roden said no, Immunology is not required by any med school program. He said some may recommend it, but it is not required.

Thom discussed the language in the class description for BI 355. She said Sherry Ettlich had encountered an issue with another course that said “two lectures,” as it does here, because students thought this meant there would only be two lectures per term. She said that none of SOU’s other non-lab classes mention how they’re taught, and that including this in the description would restrict the program to only teaching it this way. She suggested removing “Two lectures.” Similarly, 383 and 384 say 75 minute meetings per week. Roden said it would be fine to remove these mentions of how the classes are taught for BI 355, 383, and 384.

Miller-Francisco asked if it would be worth adding language to indicate that no lab is required for these courses. She asked how many upper division electives in Biology don’t have a lab. Roden said there are 5 or 6 upper division Biology electives without labs. Thom said that usually the labs are co-requisites, so students would expect to be told if there was a lab. Roden added that it is unlikely for a student to expect a lab for either Immunology or Pathophysiology and Pathogenesis because such a lab would require some biosafety measures we’re not currently equipped to provide.

Roden discussed BI 383 and 384. He said that according to a contract Dr. Bower has with the university, he’s supposed to teach 2 courses a year. Roden said Biology is reluctant to add courses within their pool of electives, which is already pretty strong, and which the program does not want to dilute. With this in mind, the program encouraged Dr. Bower to add H strand courses. Roden said that with upcoming faculty departures Biology is losing some other H strand courses that have been offered in the past. He said BI 383, the animal behavior course, might normally be labelled neuroethology, but many students are unlikely to know what that means. He said the program thinks this course fits well in H strand. It focuses on animal behavior but also looks at how humans behave as well. Roden said Dr. Bower is currently teaching a biology and society course, which is an H strand, and though he is certainly equipped to teach at the highest level, he seems to be doing a good job being able to teach at the level these non-Biology majors can understand. Jessup asked about the proposed texts for this course and noted that one of them, Essential Animal Behavior, is quite expensive, especially for a University Studies course. She said that it’s good to keep costs down when possible, especially for non-majors. She said the other book looked less expensive and looked interesting. Shrewsbury said he noticed that one of the books for Neurophysiology was actually available to rent.

Oliveri asked about BI 384, the Origin of Life course, wondering how much chemistry-related experience Dr. Bower has to talk about the universe when it was Chemistry, before Biology. Roden said he wasn’t exactly sure, but he believes Dr. Bower has taught this course before at University of Texas. Roden said he himself teaches something similar for majors, but he teaches it at a significantly higher level than Dr. Bower will be teaching it for these non-majors. Oliveri said she was just curious if his background was that wide.

Thom mentioned the proposed courses geared toward non-majors, BI 383 and 384, and asked if the program would be open to offering them with the grade mode optional. Shrewsbury noted that the syllabi for these courses indicate that there will be no tests, just student notebooks, class participation, and a final presentation. Roden said he was not sure what the requirements are around grade modes. Thom said a lot of the H strand courses are offered with the grade mode optional. Neely said if a course is graded only that’s how students have to take it, but if you say optional they can choose. Roden asked if the Chair decides or the faculty member teaching the course. Thom said it’s the program’s decision. Roden said these will not be electives that count toward the Biology major, there’s an animal behavior course for those students, and the origin of life is covered in biogeochemistry and evolution, which are both majors courses. He said he doesn’t see any problem with making the grade mode for these courses optional.

Jessup asked if students would be allowed to substitute BI 383 for BI 480. Roden said no.

Thom asked about the Junior or above class restriction for BI 383 and 384. Roden said the program would prefer to make it so that an override is required if a Sophomore would want to take one of them. He said otherwise there should be no prerequisites.

Roden discussed the proposed change to the language in the electives section of the Biology major specifying that BI 351 and 353 (which is the lab co-requisite for BI 351) count as one course toward the 5 required electives. Roden said the numbers were separated years ago, and some students take BI 351 alone as an integrations class. He said the goal of the electives is for students to take 5 different topics. He said at some point between catalogs the note that those count as one course toward the elective requirement was dropped, so students have tried to have them count as 2 of the required 5. The program wants to add the note back to clarify. Shrewsbury said that sounds like a good correction.

Oliveri/Miller-Francisco moved to accept the proposed changes in Biology with the following alterations:

* BI 413 and 413L will be suspended;
* The course descriptions of BI 355, 383, and 384 will be modified to remove specific references to how the courses will be taught (“Two lectures,” “Two 75-minute meetings per week”);
* The grade modes for BI 383 and 384 will be changed to optional.

The motion passed, 6Y/0N/0A.

Jessup asked about the program’s recommendation (but not requirement) that students take the new BI 221, Careers in Biology Seminar. She said in some majors a similar course is required and asked if this was just up to the department. Roden said Biology decided to highly recommend and not require that course. Jessup said this can get a bit confusing when advising students. Roden said that in BI 213, the last term of the Biology sequence, students are encouraged to take BI 221. He said the program considered making it a requirement but decided that wouldn’t be necessary. The program does have a senior seminar that is required because students have to take a field test. He said it would be good for students to take BI 221, but if they are not able to fit it into their schedules the program doesn’t want this to stop them from graduating.

The meeting ended at 2:22pm.