**Curriculum Committee**

Thursday, April 4, 2019

**Present:** Larry Shrewsbury, Laura Jessup, Emily Miller-Francisco, Michael Stanfill; Lee Ayers, Jody Waters, Tiffany Thom, Catherine Cable.

**Guests**: John Taylor

The meeting began at 1:37pm.

The minutes from the March 22nd meeting were accepted.

**PSYCHOLOGY**

John Taylor discussed the proposed changes in Psychology.

Shrewsbury asked about the course alignment of PSY 425, noting that this section on the new course proposal had not changed since proposed changes in Psychology were first being considered by the Committee. Taylor said PSY 425 is the new capstone course and that’s the role it fulfills in the program. This new course replaces a 2-course sequence, and it will have a writing and presentation component. He said he would edit the proposal to flesh out the alignment section and send an updated version today. Jessup said it looks like the course will not be repeatable. Taylor said that is correct. Jessup asked if he feels like one term is enough time. Taylor said yes, part of the reason for changing the capstone is to make it more manageable for students. He said the program has seen some students have difficulty finishing in time with the current capstone, so this should help address that issue.

Waters asked about the prerequisites for PSY 425. Taylor said it would be fine to remove most of the prerequisites listed as long as they still include senior standing and PSY 325. He said that in order to do the capstone students need to come in having taken at least some of the project-based courses so they have something to do in the Capstone, in which they will draw from one of their project-based courses to further investigate a related topic. He said he understands that this can’t be enforced in Banner, but the program would still like there to be a note indicating that students should have taken some of these courses. Waters asked if instructor permission might be one way to ensure this. Thom said another option would just be to monitor it closely. Taylor said he would be inclined to go the latter route rather than having to sign every student in. Jessup said it sounds like the program would like to keep the language in the course description that says students must take at least three project-based courses before PSY 425 even though it won’t be enforced in Banner. Taylor said that’s fine. Thom said this way the program will have language in the catalog to refer to if a student wants to enroll in the course without having taken enough project-based courses.

Cable asked about the plans for students on older catalogs. Taylor said the program will keep the current capstone, PSY 498 and 499, on the books for students on older catalogs. He said once those are phased out the program will do irregular registrations or navigate students through changing catalogs. He said the program has been telling students that they’re hoping the catalog will be different next year and has advised students who might want to switch to the new catalog to take courses from the selection of 8 project-based courses. He said the program expects a lot of students are going to want to switch.

Jessup said she appreciates that the textbook for the capstone is affordable.

Jessup asked about the grade mode for PSY 411 being optional even though it doesn’t look like the course is being proposed for University Studies. Thom said the biggest concern with an optional grade mode is if a course will be taken by majors in that program. Generally, the majors won’t get major credit if they take the course pass/no pass, so they need to know to take it with a grade. Taylor said the program is not expecting this course to be mostly for majors, but if any take it the program will try to make sure they take it for credit.

Miller-Francisco asked about the credits for the Psychology major. Taylor said the total credits will be the same, but that where the credits come from has changed a bit. He said the program would now require students to select five from a menu of courses, as opposed to selecting one course each from three smaller menus. Cable noted that the core requirements will actually change from 24 to 28 credits. Thom pointed out that the difference is made up by requiring additional upper division credits. Jessup suggested a rewording for the section about project-based courses. Taylor agreed that it would be best for that section to read as follows: “Choose five of the following project-based courses:[list courses]. Each course fulfills at least three of the following components: …”

Jessup noted that the book for the proposed new Positive Psychology course is expensive. Taylor said that’s the faculty member’s specialty course, and he chose the book most appropriate. Taylor said the he is a big proponent of reducing textbook costs as much as possible. Waters said the Psychology program has done some very good work in this area.

Miller-Francisco/Stanfill moved to approve the proposed changes in Psychology with the following amendments:

* The prerequisites for PSY 425 will be simplified;
* The new course proposal for PSY 425 will be updated with more information about the course’s alignment with the unit’s mission plan and the rest of the unit’s curriculum;
* The wording for the menu of project-based courses will be changed as described above.

The motion passed, 4Y/0N/0A.

**UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES**

Lee Ayers discussed the proposed changes in Undergraduate Studies. She said the program hasn’t been utilizing USEM 100 but they now have a good reason to bring it to life. There are some students who aren’t successful in USEM 101, so this will be a good opportunity for students to self-select into a course that can help prepare them to succeed in 101. She said the course description will also change because Oregon is no longer doing Smarter Balance placement scores, so that language will be removed. Ayers said the program is offering a section of USEM 100 this term for students who haven’t been successful in USEM 101 after two tries. It is being offered with a pass/no pass option.

Jessup asked whether the USEM 100 instructor will be the students’ advisor. Ayers said that hasn’t yet been settled.

Ayers discussed the proposed new Interdisciplinary Practicum, INTD 409. She said this course is being proposed because many practicum courses in different majors are restricted to students in those majors, so interdisciplinary students aren’t able to take them. Ayers said she usually oversees the practicum for these students and she feels comfortable creating this pathway and overseeing it. She said she can’t oversee all capstones for interdisciplinary students, so she works with the programs individually. She said she worked with Dale Vidmar in the library on this, basing it on the CCJ pathway, and the syllabus reflects that influence. This will give students an opportunity to get experience and see what they can do with the degree, as well as seeing what types of people work in different professions. Waters said she had some concerns with the high number of credit hours in the degree, but those concerns are not prohibitive. Ayers said this proposal is a pathway to help put the work together for the students, and she’s only had 5 students in the years she’s been working with them who have needed a pathway like this.

Waters asked if Ayers considered making the grade mode optional. She said sometimes site supervisors can’t provide the kind of substantive feedback that would be needed to assign a letter grade. Ayers said that because this course would fit into the 75 credits in the major, she decided not to make the grade mode optional. She said she hasn’t had a site supervisor in one of these cases who was not interested in providing substantive feedback, so she does not feel that will be an issue. She said that students in the course develop one objective for each credit they’re enrolled in.

Thom said she would recommend one small language change. The new course proposal says students must have completed 135 credits; Thom recommended saying Senior standing or above. Ayers said she would be perfectly happy with that.

Jessup/Stanfill moved to accept the proposed changes in Undergraduate Studies, with the slight change to the prerequisite for UGS 409 that Senior standing or above will replace 135 credits completed; the motion passed, 4Y/0N/0A.

The meeting ended at 2:11pm.