Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee

Minutes from September 11, 2013

Present:
Kurt Anderson
Wayne Bequette, co-chair
June Deery
Connie Grega
Mike Hanna
Sharon Kunkel
Shawn Lawson
Mark Mistur
Gina O’Connor
Lee Odell
George Plopper, co-chair
David Spooner
Josie Seddon
Hao Zhao

1) George Plopper and Mark Mistur are co-chairs for a Curriculum Review Committee appointed by the Provost. The charge for the Committee is to develop outcomes for the Core Curriculum, not develop a new curriculum.

2) The motion to approve the revised templates as presented by Lee Odell was approved unanimously. J. Seddon suggested adding program outcomes to the new program template. S. Kunkel will distribute the revised templates to committee members for distribution in their respective schools.

3) The minutes from May 1, 2013 were approved unanimously with minor formatting edits. W. Bequette will clarify the Committee membership and the terms remaining for each elected member.

4) School of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences- Lee Odell presented the new Games concentration, Writing for Games. The Committee suggested several revisions. Several topics courses were listed as requirements for the concentration. The FSCC recommended bringing them back as new course proposals and listing the classes that meet the requirement. There was also some discussion about unpaid internships. The vote on the new concentration was tabled.

5) School of Science (SoS) - David Spooner presented the proposed changes from the school.
   a. BS Information Technology and Web Sciences template change- The department is expanding the technical tracks from 2 to 4. As a result they are adjusting the concentrations to align with the new tracks. There is a topics course listed in the template that David will bring forward to the Committee for review. There was some discussion of the structure of the concentrations within the program. They are a subset of the degree and then a further subset is a track tied to a specific concentration. The degree program was developed such that all the concentrations have some overlap with other majors on campus. The motion to approve the revised template was approved unanimously.
   b. Neuroscience Concentration- There is a lot of interest in this area so the Biology department is proposing a new concentration in Neuroscience. It’s a rigorous concentration that Biology majors could do but other majors may not have the flexibility within their programs to complete it. There was a general discussion about concentrations. It doesn’t appear on a transcript because there is no Institute definition for a concentration. A concentration is defined differently in each school and/or department. Some departments offer a concentration with 3 or 4 courses, in other departments it’s nine courses. The proposed concentration includes 2 topics courses which have not yet been offered. After a brief discussion, the Committee voted to approve the concentration as presented with the
stipulation that the topics courses will be presented for review after they’ve been taught. The consensus is new courses should be taught once or twice before they are added to the catalog.

Mark Mistur pointed out that the Committee asked L. Odell to take a different action than what was asked of D. Spooner for the School of Science.

6) The Committee continued its discussion of paid vs. unpaid internships. There is a difference if a student is taking one course vs. spending an entire term at an internship. Some departments limit the number of internships. Is there a policy that prohibits a undergraduate peer mentors from getting paid and receiving academic credit? Is there an academic component to a peer mentor assignment? Committee members expressed different opinions. It can depend on the responsibilities of the peer mentor. Are they making copies or tutoring and mentoring? In the SoS undergraduate program mentors or readers are getting academic credit in lieu of payment. The level of oversight is important. For students in the School of Architecture (SoA) licensure regulations prohibit non-paid internships but also require an internship for the license. George Plopper suggested this might be a topic the Faculty Senate(FS) would want to discuss. W. Bequette will bring the issue to the FS for a broader discussion. He’ll get more details from Mark Mistur on this issue and its impact on the majors in the SoA.