Minutes for University Curriculum Committee meeting of May 2, 2012

Present (alphabetically by department):
Adams, Don (DA) Chair
Butler, Jerry (JeB) Art
Jackson, Mark (MJa) Biology
Rollin, Ruth Biology (alt.)
Dobbs-McAuliffe, Betsy Biomolecular Sciences
Watton, Steve (SW) Chemistry & Biochemistry
Pudlinski, Chris (ChP) Communication
Zanella, Deborah Computer Electronics & Graphics Technology
King, Cherie (CK) Counseling & Family Therapy
Thornton, Eleanor Design
Mijid, Nara Economics
Vasko, Thomas Engineering
Karpuk, Paul (PK) English
Frank, Lisa (LF) Finance
Chang, Howook Geography
Jones, Mark (MJo) History
Miller, Daniel Management & Organization
Lee-Partridge, Joo Eng (JELP) Management Information Systems
Wang, Haoyu Manufacturing & Construction Management
Miller, Adele (AM) Mathematical Sciences
Kazecki, Jakub Modern Languages
Parr, Carlotta (CaP) Music
Sharma, Nimmi Physics & Earth Sciences
Smith, Robbin (RS) Political Science
Perdue, Lauren Psychology
Sanders, Delia Social Work
Erdmans, Mary Sociology
Nicoll-Senft, Joan Special Education
Siragusa, Sheila Theatre
Chasse, Emily Library
Wolff, Robert Arts & Sciences Dean rep.

Initials have been provided for committee members or guests who spoke, and/or moved or seconded a motion, so as to allow for maximum conciseness and readability of the minutes.

I. The committee approved the minutes of the April 4, 2012 main meeting amended as follows: add Eleanor Thornton (Design), Lauren Perdue (Psychology), and Lisa Frank (Finance) to list of attendees.
II. DA asked the committee to vote on whether to approve, in principle, the Guidelines for Program Requirements passed by Academic Standards. The purpose of the guidelines is to provide, to the extent possible, a uniform, campus-wide template into which each program can fit its specific requirements. The degree of uniformity possible, however, is necessarily limited due to constraints from various accrediting bodies. The template for each program would clarify what is actually part of the major and what is a "related requirement." It would also disambiguate which courses must be passed with a C- or higher (or in some cases, a B- / B or higher) and which ones the student need merely pass, with at least a D-. It would specify what courses or how many may be double-counted in both the major and minor (not referring to double-counting across the major and General Education).

PK moved / LF seconded that the committee approve the guidelines in principle. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. Election of University Curriculum Committee chair 2012-2014.

DA requested nominations, but as no others were forthcoming, MJ a self-nominated. SW seconded the nomination. A motion to close nominations was approved. MJ a was elected by acclamation.

SW moved / PK seconded that DA be thanked for two years of exemplary service as chair. The motion was approved unanimously.

IV. Consent Agenda (agenda item A)

DA offered explanations and clarifications concerning the following items on the Consent Agenda.

1. Biology

The Biology program must progress to the Ph.D. or begin losing students. The course and program changes listed here in connection with the creation of the Doctor of Nurse Anaesthesia Practice program (1.11.1) are intended among other things to add flexibility to the program so that different parts of it can be taught in different venues: three area hospitals plus CCSU. But more courses will be taught at CCSU, which may require addition of faculty resources.

2. Biomolecular Sciences

2.1. BMS 480 Emergency Medical Services Instructor is a course designed to teach other teachers.

3. Chemistry

These changes are designed to create two different tracks or versions of the B.S. programs in Chemistry and Biochemistry, (ACS / Americal Chemical Society) accredited and non-accredited, that is, it will "separate the cats from the kittens." The latter won't be useless, just more suitable for careers requiring less specialized or rigorous knowledge of chemistry, in which it is secondary or ancillary. Prerequisites have been altered as dictated by creation of the two versions.

4. Computer Electronics & Graphics Technology

Some other controversial items were withdrawn.

5. Counseling & Family Therapy

The proposals add into the two MS programs a course created last month, CNSL 505 Counseling and Human Development Across the Lifespan, change the number of credits for the first of the two programs (5.1.1 / Specialization in School Counseling) from 48-51 to 51-54, and delete PSY 530 Psychopathology from the second of the two programs (5.2.1 / Specialization in Professional and Rehabilitation Counseling).

6. Economics

The proposals create a new course, ECON 308 Political Economy, and add it to the core for the Economics B.A. A different course is removed from the program to compensate for this.

8. Geography
8.4.1. This revision to the program is to correct an oversight: GEOG 481 should have been added to the major.

9. History

9.1-4. These revisions have been undertaken because of downward pressure on 400-level courses from the graduate level, that is, efforts are being made to curtail the number of 400-level courses taken for graduate credit. The number of 400-level credits that may count for the M.A. is here reduced from 9 to 6, and furthermore, graduate credit is removed from all 400-level courses except the new one, HIST 495 Advanced Topics in History, which may therefore be repeated for up to, but no more than, 6 credits. Graduate students wishing to take 400-level offerings must take them under the HIST 495 rubric which is necessarily cross-listed with an equivalent pre-existing 400-level course. However, some 400-level courses may not be cross-listed with HIST 495 and these, necessarily, are only open to undergraduates.

10. Management Information Systems

10.1-2. The title change to singular "Communication" in MC 207 (formerly Managerial Communications) and use of the singular in the title for the new course, MC 307 Managerial Communication II, are undertaken out of respect for the Department of Communication.

11. Manufacturing and Construction Management

Some issues were created because the description of the existing program was called up from the (obsolete) entry in the database rather than the shadow catalog, where it is updated / correct.

12. Modern Languages

The removal of graduate credit from FR 441 (12.1.1) as well as the deletion of the 500-level courses listed under agenda item 12.2.1 are necessitated by the deletion of the graduate program in French.

13. Music

13.3.1. The changes in the B.A., which apply to the Specialization in General Studies, add MUS 350 Piano Class III and MUS 351 Piano Class IV to the requirements, so that students are required to achieve a four-semester level of proficiency, or the equivalent, rather than only two. To compensate for the increase in the number of credits in this category, the number of credits of Music electives is reduced by four, from 9-13 to 5-13, the number being variable because students may be able to achieve the required level of proficiency by taking less than four full semesters.

13.4.1 MUS 214 Electro-acoustic Music and Sonic Art is added to the list of courses in Category A of which students are required to take 6 credits.

14. Political Science

14.1.1-14.2.1. The changes are designed to introduce much more structure and rigor into the program, with students required to take a minimum number of 300- / 400-level courses. Students will not be able "just to take a bunch of courses" to complete the major, as course selection options are rendered more systematic.

ChP made a friendly amendment to add Communication to the list of departments from which students may take 3 credits upon approval by the chair of Political Science (with an eye towards using Political Communication in particular). RS, on behalf of Political Science, expressed no objections and the amendment passed.

15. Psychology

15.1.1. The internships are being consolidated under one instructor because the agencies or organizations at which interns are placed are geographically close, which makes it feasible to consolidate them in this manner.

16. Special Education

16.1.1-3. These items were held over from last month because the Dean had not yet signed off at that time.

17. Theatre

17.2.1 The major started out as a small major at 34 credits which allowed room for the Dean to approve raising it to 40, at which it is still a small major.

A question arose concerning the division of the B.S. Chemistry and Biochemistry majors into accredited and non-accredited versions: as the accredited version would be more rigorous in the same way that Engineering Technology is more so than Engineering, should...
this be reflected in a differentiation in the names of the programs as per the Engineering model? The response was that there are precedents in Chemistry departments elsewhere for dividing the major into accredited and non-accredited versions without a name change.

JELP moved that agenda item 6.2.1, the revision of the B.A. in Economics, be removed from the Consent Agenda due to the change in the list of courses which must be taken in other departments, with PHIL 220 or MIS 201 removed and replaced by STAT 215. SW seconded the motion, and it was approved.

The Consent Agenda was approved.

V. Regular Agenda (agenda item B)

Discussion then ensued on agenda item 6.2.1 which had been removed from the Consent Agenda as per the motion by JELP. The issue is primarily that the departments that offer the two courses being removed from the Economics B.A. Philosophy and Management Information Systems, were not informed in advance of the change. The question emerged as to whether their approval should have been sought first. In fact it is not the usual practice to solicit approvals in such cases, but perhaps it should be. PK moved and CK seconded that the motion to approve the agenda item, including the removal of these two courses and substitution of STAT 215, be conditional upon the chairs of those two departments getting back to DA with their approvals before 1:00 P.M. Monday, in time for his presentation of the curriculum committee report at the meeting of the Faculty Senate at 2:00. If not, the rest of the revision would go through except that PHIL 220 and MIS 201 would be left in for the time being. This motion was approved, with one dissenting vote by RS because of concern about other departments being granted veto power over what would appear to be a department's own internal matter, determination of its own program requirements.

1. Chemistry

This agenda item was delayed because it required Dean Lemma's signature but she was out of town, and therefore it did not appear on the Consent Agenda. That issue has been resolved and the item may now move forward. CaP moved JeB seconded that the Chemistry items 1.1-5 be approved as a package. The motion was approved.

2. Counseling and Family Therapy

2.1.1. This item also awaited Dean Lemma's signature and therefore could not appear on the Consent Agenda, but may now move forward. CK moved / AM seconded that the item be approved. The motion was approved.

3. Economics

3.1.1. The revision in the number of credits is actually just cleaning up, to fix a clerical error.

VI. Items in need of Dean's Signature (SEPS) (agenda item C)

1. Counseling and Family Therapy

1.1. This item, the Official Certificate Program in School-Based Marriage and Family Therapy, has now received the requisite signatures and may move forward. CK moved / LF seconded that the submission be approved, with the understanding that this certificate program still must be approved by the Board of Regents, and that in the course of that approval process, additional requirements may be necessitated for state certification. The motion was approved.

VII. List of Courses to be Deleted

DA said he would be contacting curriculum committee representatives or department chairs about their courses listed. If by Monday he did not have an answer as to whether the department wished to allow the affected course(s) to be deleted, those concerning which he had received no response would be deleted at the Senate meeting.

RS moved / SW seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul A. Karpuk
Secretary, University Curriculum Committee 2011-12
Professor, Dept. of English