UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE
2015-16 Meeting #11, February 08, 2016

Present: Matthew Brehm, Dan Eveleth, Janine Darragh, Joe Law, Patricia Hart, Kerri Vierling, Mark Nielsen, Todd Thorsteinson, Tim Prather, Jeanne Stevenson, Don Crowley, Rick Stoddardt, Kenton Bird, Heather Chermak
Absent: Ankah Guria,
Others present: Grace Miller, Rebecca Frost, Dwaine Hubbard, Robert Mahler, Eva Strand, Nancy Luebbert, Ben Beard.

Announcements: Dwaine and Dan met with Kenton Bird and Shawna Corey (the Chair of UCGE) to discuss the UCGE’s “Oral and Written Communication” proposal. They also considered what a proposal might look like that preserves the current version of the GE requirements until the Committee receives either a) assessment data from English or b) proposals to change the course descriptions for English 313 and/or 317.

Call to order: A quorum being present, the chair called the meeting to order at 3:40p.m. in the Pitman Cataldo room. The February 8th minutes were approved unanimously, with one abstention.

New Business

UCC-16-033

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
Bob explained that the Environmental Science Program historically reported changes through a curriculum committee, through their college, but now exist as a free-standing department. The historical approval process has been discontinued. Mark noted that he liked the idea of a college committee looking things over. Bob explained that the College of Natural Resources would have to amend the college by-laws in order to make Environmental Science into a department and subject to that College’s curriculum committee. Mark noted that all BCB changes go through the college committee in the College of Science. Kerri noted that the two new Environmental Science courses were reviewed by the College of Natural Resources and Bob added that the courses appeared before the Dean, Tom Gorman.

Don commented that he recalled the Faculty Senate voting to allow university-wide programs to keep separate representation on the Graduate Council. This suggests a university preference that university-wide programs not be treated as departments to other colleges. Dan suggested that the committee assume that is the case and figure it out for the next time it comes up. It was moved and seconded to approve the two new Environmental Science courses. The motion passed unanimously.

FISH AND WILDLIFE: ITEM ONE
Kerri introduced the Fish and Wildlife changes. She explained that the College of Natural Resources has two new faculty: one wildlife faculty member and one fishery faculty member. This has led to a program-wide revision of curriculum, heightened by a recent external program review and stakeholder input. She suggested that the committee discuss item by item.

Kerri explained that the 473 course number refers to ECB, a college wide program with a thesis requirement. The course is being added because the college had a “senior presentation credit” on the books and ECB now needs a designated capstone course. She also noted that there are a number of new
courses and some were designed by the new faculty. She specifically addressed the External Speakers course, wherein graduate students organize visits to campus for speakers of their choice. The course has been taught as a special topics course but now requires a permanent designation in the Catalog. Matthew asked whether the organizers or the attendees receive credit and Kerri respond that the students who organize receive the credit. Tim asked whether the course had been approved as a capstone and whether there were minimum credit requirements for capstone courses (the course in question is one credit). Dwaine replied that other Capstones are also one credit. Kerri noted that they also need to have the course approved for creation before taking it to UCGE for designation as a capstone course. Dan noted that the description says it serves as a capstone, even though it doesn’t have another designation. It was moved and seconded to approve the new courses from Fish and Wildlife. The motion passed unanimously.

**FISH AND WILDLIFE: ITEM TWO**
Kerri explained that the changes deal primarily with updating titles to make them more specific, increasing credits for courses that are being expanded, and adding prerequisites to courses that are being reworked. Tim and Mark noted that the WLF 448 prerequisite is unclear. Kerri explained that the “or” only applies to the last two courses listed. A committee member suggested that the prerequisite read as: “Stat 251; Fish 316 or WLF 316, and Math 160 or 170.” It was moved and seconded to approve this batch of changes. The motion passed unanimously.

**FISH AND WILDLIFE: ITEM THREE**
Kerri explained that 448 offers content similar to the 316 courses and the wildlife seminar was merely redundant. It was moved and seconded to approve the dropped courses. The motion passed unanimously.

**FISH AND WILDLIFE: ITEM FOUR**
Kerri suggested that the committee discuss fishery changes first and wildlife changes second. Regarding the fisheries degree, Kerri explained that the changes are coming from “an efficiency perspective, an updating perspective, and a new folks perspective.” Additionally, the changes “[formalize] the addition of an internship experience within the degree.” She concluded that those were the big changes and the remaining changes were less consequential. Dan noted that the was no net change in credit requirements.

Rick noted that Comm 101 is included for first and second years, while further down the requirements state “one of the following business writing and technical writing.” Rick asked whether Kerri felt that those courses fulfilled the writing requirement and Kerri noted that the department will likely consider the new science writing course. It was moved and seconded to approve the changes to the Fisheries degree. The motion passed unanimously.

**FISH AND WILDLIFE: ITEM FIVE**
Kerri explained that the college has made changes to the requirement bins that address communication. The Wildlife degree changes also formalize an internship. It was moved and seconded to approve the curricular changes to the Wildlife degree. The motion passed unanimously.

**FISH AND WILDLIFE: ITEM SIX**
Kerri explained that the changes to the Aquaculture Minor are really updates, necessary in order to keep the curriculum consistent with what’s happening outside the University. She explained further that within aquaculture, there is a heavy business emphasis. Dan asked if it were possible for a student to
earn the minor in fewer than 18 credits, since the courses can be arranged for credits. Kerri and Dan together determined that the credits will equal 18. It was moved and seconded to approve the changes to the Aquaculture Minor. The motion passed unanimously.

**FISH AND WILDLIFE: ITEM SEVEN**
Kerri introduced minor changes to the Wildlife Resources Minor. She explained that the changes incorporate the course name changes and the new 371 course. Joe asked for clarification regarding the phrase: “any combination of the courses below.” Kerri explained that students were meant to take a combination of courses equal to 18 credits. Dan suggested a wording change and Kerri asked Dwaine what language is most common in the Catalog. Dwaine suggest “choose three to four courses from the following (10-11 cr).” Dan suggested that the committee approve it, knowing that editing will happen later. It was moved and seconded to approve the Wildlife Resources Minor. The motion passed unanimously.

**FOREST, RANGELAND, AND FIRE SCIENCES**
Kerri invited Eva to speak. Eva explained that the department is adding a few minors, the 473 ECB change is repeated, and 252 and 253 are being sequenced. Eva explained that 252 and 253 used to be contained in one course, but it is now being split into two because the field work happens in the summer and this led professors to enter grades after the Registrar deadline. Dan suggested that the committee consider the dropped courses concurrently. It was moved and seconded to approve the added, changed, and dropped courses. The motion passed unanimously.

**NATURAL RESOURCES: ITEM ONE**
Kerri explained that they were hoping to add NR 300—a seminar class—so that students can meet together more often and build a community in a seminar environment. Kerri also explained that the Ecology in the Wilderness courses will hopefully be taught in the wild, at Taylor Ranch. She noted that it is an online course, despite the students’ presence at the Ranch. The online component provides context for the things they experience at the ranch.

Dan asked what “re-required” meant. The committee elected to change it to “required.” Patricia also noted a typo: “Fiedl Ecology” should be “Field Ecology.”

**NATURAL RESOURCES: ITEM TWO**
Kerri explained that NR 101 was originally a half-semester course, but it is being changed to a full semester, which includes credit additions. Joe noted that the change to NR 322 includes a request for special course and laboratory fees. He asked whether the committee should be made aware of those fees before approving course changes. Mark noted that there ought to be communication between groups regarding discontinuing courses that have special fees. Patricia suggested the phrase “course fees may apply.” Mark noted that there ought to be a way to create the course, publish it in the catalog, and establish the course fee in the same year so that the fee can apply the first time that the course is offered. He said: “I guess we got to be willing to accept proposals from pending courses.” Jeanne noted that courses are often delayed until the next approval process and Mark responded that delaying creates a two year lag in getting a course up and running. Dan asked what kind of signal the committee should see if someone proposed dropping a course with associated fees. Jeanne replied that no one has asked that question before. Dan said “so we’re comfortable not doing anything with it?” and noted that the preceding discussion would be reflected in the minutes. A committee member suggested that the committee vote on all course changes through the curricular requirements. It was so moved and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
NATURAL RESOURCES: ITEM THREE
Kerri explained that the base requirements are on page 15 and the different options begin on page 16. She explained that the changes include: adding a thesis seminar, removing the 483 senior project presentation class and adding 473 in its stead. Regarding the NRE option, Kerri explained that the Fish/WLF 316 courses are being replaced with WLF 448.

Regarding the Conservation Biology option, Kerri noted that the changes were similar. The committee elected to vote on all curriculum changes through page 20. It was moved and seconded to approve the changes. The motion passed unanimously.

NATURAL RESOURCES AND SOCIETY: ITEMS ONE AND TWO
Kerri noted that NRS 473 is being added back and a couple courses are being added to the Environmental Education Graduate Certificate, including an NRS course designed for students in McCall. Dan asked whether a lot of students complete the certificate and Kerri replied that 25 students are currently enrolled. It was moved and seconded to approve the NRS changes. The motion passed unanimously.

UCC-16-033a NEW UNDERGRADUATE RESTORATION ECOLOGY CERTIFICATE
Kerri explained that employers are looking for graduates with experience restoration ecology. She noted that the department anticipated 4 to 8 students every year. Tim noted that the external review suggested the department add restoration items. It was moved and approved to add the certificate. The motion passed unanimously.

UCC-16-033b NEW ECOLOGY MINOR
Kerri explained that the new minor builds on existing courses and is intended to be helpful to students across all majors. She noted that the minor has wide support across the college and that it can be completed with relative ease, as there aren’t very many hidden prerequisites. Dan noted that the minor was 18 credits, the previous certificate was 16 credits, and the next certificate up for discussion was 26 credits. He asked what made something a minor instead of a certificate and vice versa. Specifically, he asked if making minors worth less than certificates serves to “muddy the waters.” Mark responded that students can earn certificates without an attached degree, but a minor is only available to undergraduates who also have a major. Dan noted that the minor is targeting undergraduate students working on another degree, while the Restoration Certificate might be earned by someone in the community. It was moved and seconded to approve the new Ecology Minor. The motion passed unanimously.

UCC-16-033c NEW TRIBAL NATURAL RESOURCES STEWARDSHIP CERTIFICATE
Kerri explained that this Certificate was developed following a Tribal Summit at the University in Fall 2014. Participants suggested that the University offer a certificate that students living on reservations could complete part of their coursework, attend NIC for a year, and then transfer to UI. Dan noted that the minimum should be 26, not 28. Kerri additionally noted that the required courses exist and would not require additional faculty. It was moved and seconded to approve the creation of this certificate. The motion passed unanimously.

UCC-16-033d DISCONTINUE ENVIRONMENTAL WATER SCIENCE CERTIFICATE
Dan noted that this proposal and the next proposal are both discontinuances. Bob Mahler introduced the changes. Joe asked why the vote was split and Bob replied that the Environmental Science program
wanted to discontinue the Environmental Water Science Graduate Certificate at the recommendation of peer review. Rick noted that the two split votes were absences, not abstentions. It was moved and seconded to approve the discontinuance. The motion passed unanimously.

**UCC-16-033e ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATION ASSESSMENT CERTIFICATE**

It was moved and seconded to approve the discontinuance. The motion passed unanimously.

**UCC-16-033f**

Bob explained that this change is in response to President Staben’s initiative to increase enrollment through distance education. This proposal deals with a new option “available greater than 50% through distance delivery.” Bob explained that the option is “bare-bones:” there is a minimum number of courses available online and no new courses are involved. He added that Terry Radcliffe in DEE performed a market analysis and found that there is a strong demand for distance degrees. Bob noted his optimism that they could enroll 200 students in the program. Mark asked whether they had worked through converting courses to online options. Bob responded that they were given $85,000 to convert these courses and half were already finished.

Mark asked how the program would handle lab content in an online format. Bob responded that a few courses were using a lab in a box format, but students can’t complete the entire distance program through the University. But, Bob said, they are hopeful that there will be a push on campus to come up with these lab courses in the next three to four years. If students can’t get certain courses at UI, the University will provide materials to help them find the courses elsewhere. Mark said

Rick asked whether Bob and others have considered the infrastructure for supporting students through interlibrary loan, a dedicated librarian, tutoring services, or JOVE (Journal of Visualized Experiments). Bob responded that individual instructors have sought that kind of library support, but the program itself has not. Rick provided an example: the College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences is in the process of moving courses online and they funded the library for help with the transition. Bob explained that the program’s only funding is for the professors moving courses online. Rick told the committee that distance students often don’t know what resources are available to them, so the sources they do use are not as strong as what’s available on campus. Bob replied that he would take Rick’s comments to the faculty. Dan noted that if the committee approved the change, the demand for library resources would come afterward. Rick said: “it’s not a battle that I’m ever going to win.”

**UCC-16-036 NEW BIOLOGICAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT**

Joe reminded the committee that the BAE department was divided as a result of Focus for the Future. Two units stayed with CALS and one unit moved to COE. With that move came funding to support faculty and staff in the College of Engineering. The BAE department is now Soil and Water Systems. Mark noted: “Dirt and Water.” Joe explained that UCC-16-036 is a proposal to create a department of Biological Engineering. Mark visited a point from previous meetings: FFF was meant to reduce the number of departments, but the University has only created more. Joe responded that the number of programs stayed the same and the number of departments increased by one. Don noted that the Provost asked to table the CALS department that UCC approved. Joe told the group that there were 8 faculty members and 4 staff, including a recent faculty addition to the College of Engineering.

Tim noted that the proposal includes a piece about the potential for expansion. He reminded the committee that these avenues of growth (bioprocessing, biomedical, environmental, agricultural, and
food engineering. overlap with existing programs. For example, a food engineering specialization area might interfere with the current Food Science program. Joe suggested that the agricultural portion could be stricken.

Mark expressed concern about losing the term “agricultural engineering.” He said: “Does that matter? We’re a land grant school with an agricultural mission and we’re no longer going to have a program that carries the name ‘agricultural engineering.’ Is that a concern?” Joe responded that others on the engineering side felt the same way: that the University ought to maintain the agricultural pieces.

Joe noted that the emphasis areas include agriculture, but there is not an agricultural component anymore, at least not expressly. Tim said that the intent has been to move into the biomedical aspects of biological engineering. To that end, it would be dishonest to advertise the agricultural piece.

Rick noted that Utah State and Montana State are both land grant universities and neither has an agricultural engineering program. Joe pointed to enrollment data from Utah State: after they made a similar switch, enrollment increased. Joe also noted that UC Davis also had a biological and agricultural engineering department that they split into biomedical engineering. Tim told the committee that he was comfortable tabling the proposal until they could get more information. The committee elected to table the proposal.

**UCC-16-038 COLLEGE OF LAW**

Nancy explained that there are a few course changes, some changes to the Juris Doctor degree, and changes to the emphasis areas. She explained that because of changes in ABA accreditation requirements, the Law School has removed the old skills credit requirement and replaced it with experiential credit. She clarified that this is an entirely new list of courses and not a matter of changing titles. She added that the Law School is also upping the number of hours of pro bono service, in accordance with ABA requirements. The Law School is also adding three new courses to the JD curriculum because they are important for passing the bar; formally adding them reduces the advising burden.

Kenton asked whether “Main Street Law Clinic” referred to a place. Nancy explained that it is the term of art that refers to a general practice clinic and the change to the course’s description reflects changes in the grant that they operate under. Dan asked whether they would be an increase in students’ workloads and Nancy responded that the load is the same, with the exception of the pro bono requirements.

Rick asked for clarification regarding the phrase: “Plus the following: One Upper-Division Writing Course.” Ben explained that the J.D. requires that each student complete a major paper of academic quality, tied to a course number, but not a course specifically. He explained further that the phrasing reflects the Law School’s by-laws. Mark asked if they could insert “legal” and Rick suggested the phrase “as referred to in the by-laws.” Mark noted that the Catalog is a legal document and he was uncomfortable referring to the by-laws to make sense of what the catalog says. Ben suggested that they change the wording to “fulfillment of the upper division writing requirement” and Tim added “as specified within the by-laws.” Mark noted that it’s unlikely that Law students are confused by the wording.

Don asked whether they deliberately left the press out of the Law 850 description changes and Ben responded that he did not remember discussing the press. Don noted that it is easy to amend if the Law
School intended otherwise and Ben said “just put it in.” The word “Press” was added to the description to follow “Speech.” It was moved and seconded to approve the Law changes. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting closed at 5:00. UCC will meet again on February 22nd.

Grace Miller
UCC Secretary