UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE  
2015-16 Meeting #13, February 29, 2016

Present: Dan Eveleth, Janine Darragh, Joe Law, Patricia Hart, Kerri Vierling, Mark Nielsen, Todd Thorsteinson, Tim Prather, Jeanne Stevenson, Don Crowley, Kenton Bird, Heather Chermak
Absent: Ankah Guria, Rick Stoddardt, Matthew Brehm

Call to order: A quorum being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 3:30p.m. in the Pitman Cataldo room. The February 22nd minutes were approved unanimously.

UCC-16-032 POLITICAL SCIENCE

Dan noted that the International Studies Department elected to table the two IS proposals.

Don noted to the committee that the changes to the Political Science B.S. are minor. He explained that the B.S. has always required more exposure to math and research methods, but the two degrees “have never been very different and they won’t be very different in this configuration either.” It was moved and seconded to approve the changes to the Political Science B.S. The motion passed unanimously

UCC-16-032 SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

Dan asked for clarification regarding the phrase: “Note: Students who have already received credit for any core course or an equivalent will not need to retake it, but will substitute appropriate courses with approval from their advisor.” Kenton replied that it could refer “to people who took the 400-level course and then wanted to count the 500-level cross-listed course for the Masters.” He suggested the addition of “as an undergraduate.”

Tim asked whether “fields elective” was a standard phrase and Dwaine affirmed. Kerri asked whether “fields” and “sub-fields” were one and the same and Tim asked what “field school” or “field internship” referred to. Patricia noted that “field school” refers to a school in the field and Tim responded that he interpreted it to mean a school in a related field. Patricia suggested that there are two meanings of “field” in the proposal and the difference between “field school” and “sub-field” ought to be clarified. The committee elected to table the proposal.

UCC-16-032a MUSIC

Leonard explained that the Music program previously hosted four tracks: instrumental, vocal-instrumental, vocal-voice, and instrumental-keyboard. The department is proposing a new, comprehensive Music Education minor that will prepare music students who go on to teach in rural areas and require a wider skill set. It was moved and seconded to approve the new minor. The motion passed unanimously.

UCC-16-032b MUSIC

The new minor comes alongside other significant changes: the discontinuance of the Instrumental-Vocal and Vocal-Keyboard emphases and a name change for the Vocal-Voice emphasis (now just “Vocal.”)
Leonard explained that the College of Education is dropping Phonics from their requirements for certification and the Music School is following suit. They are also dropping the first year of piano class.

Dan noted that a course in the Vocal emphasis is changing from 5 credits to 2 credits. Leonard explained that the previous credit requirement was a misprint and the department has always required only 2 credits of that course. Mark asked how the department determined that the degree required 130 credits and Leonard responded that there are specific requirements in the degree that are also General Education requirements. He explained that department attempted to reduce all degrees to 120 credits, but it wasn’t possible given the state requirements for certification. The motion passed unanimously.

Brian explained that the department is discontinuing certain minors because they can’t reliably provide them to students. Don noted that the International Political Economy minor was shared between Political Science and Economics. He asked if someone in the Economics department had been notified and Brian affirmed. The motion passed unanimously.

Kenton noted that Language Acquisition and Development course listed in the emphasis requirements did not have a course number assigned. Grace noted that the course was new and the new course number—408—would be reflected in the curricular requirements. Kenton also noted that the emphasis listed a Senior Experience requirement, but did not specify one in particular. Janine informed the committee that Education will begin offering a language methods course that may be useful to the emphasis. Patricia asked whether it were possible to approve the proposal and ask for clarification regarding the Senior Experience requirement.

Mark noted that the proposal includes more frequent offerings for four 400-level courses, but the proposal’s financial impact does not explain how the department will handle the change or whether it will increase the teaching load. Dan noted that the proposal states “we have the necessary resources.” Patricia suggested that the committee ask someone to come and explain the changes and Dan responded “It wouldn’t hurt, since we’re starting to guess at things.” He summarized the relevant questions as follows: whether the new Education course ought to be included in the requirements, whether the capstone requirement refers to a particular course, and what the change in frequency means for the department in terms of teaching load and financial impact.

The Department of Philosophy proposed discontinuing the Global Justice Undergraduate Certificate and the Professional Ethics Undergraduate Certificate. Mark noted: “We’ll no longer have ethics.” Dan
responded: “We’ll just be unethical.” It was moved and seconded to discontinue both certificates. The motion passed unanimously.

**UCC-16-035  ART AND ARCHITECTURE**

Dan noted that the B.S. credit total decreased from 126 to 124. Diane explained that a five-year-old spreadsheet error added 3 credits to the total; this has now been resolved. Tim noted that the vertical studio is 6 credits and required twice; he asked if the major ultimately requires 12 credits of the course and Diane affirmed.

Greg introduced the changes to the MSIAD. The thesis option is interdisciplinary and students are now able to pursue the degree after having completed a degree in Landscape Architecture, instead of Architecture alone. Prior to this proposal, students were required to take 12 credits of graduate seminars and 12 credits of graduate studios, but the studios listed in the degree audit were not always appropriate for the students enrolling in them. The change to these requirements allows major professors to guide student work more closely. Kenton asked if students were restricted to seminars within the college and Greg responded that students were required to take one seminar from inside the college. Otherwise, students are free to take graduate seminars from other venues approved by their advisor. Kerri noted a typo in the heading: “MSAID” should be “MSIAD.” It was moved and seconded to approve the two sets of curricular changes. The motion passed unanimously.

**UCC-16-037  BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES**

Mark noted to the committee that the change to Biology 115 is significant. Jim explained that the department is proposing splitting the lab from the main course in order to provide transfer and AP students greater flexibility. The change also makes the course available to students in other programs who do not want to take the accompanying lab, but do want to attend lecture.

Mark noted that, historically, the labs did not have enough seating. This change should alleviate the pressure as students won’t have to take the lab a second time when they enroll in the regular course. Mark also asked whether Biol 115 should be listed as both a corequisite and prerequisite for Biol 115L, as it is currently listed as a corequisite only. Dwaine noted that the system recognizes a corequisite course (“Concurrent” in Banner) as both a coreq and a prereq. It was moved and seconded to approve the changes, contingent upon changing the coreq/prereq language. The motion passed unanimously.

**UCC-16-037  MATHEMATICS**

Mark introduced the changes. He explained that the Math department’s sequence of courses now relies on the assumption that students have the basics of number theory before they take Math 386. Math 386 now constitutes students’ second exposure to the topic, with more sophisticated material. It was moved and seconded to approve the course change. The motion passed unanimously.

Dan asked whether transfer guides would be updated to reflect new equivalencies and Dwaine affirmed.

**UCC-16-037a  MATHEMATICS**

Mark informed the committee that the Mathematics department previously added a degree option in Mathematical Biology as a condition of a grant they received. In the aftermath, the department decided
to shift the focus of the Scientific Modeling option. The curricular requirements are already changed; this proposal deals only with the name change from “Scientific Modeling” to “Quantitative Modeling.” It was moved and seconded to approve the name change. The motion passed unanimously.

UCC-16-039   LAW

Richard noted that the requested changes are summarized under item 4. He explained that the College of Law reviewed the curriculum for first year law students in anticipation for offering the curriculum at the Boise campus, beginning in the summer of 2017. He explained that the College is beginning the process early because the changes also require approval from the State Board of Education and the American Bar Association.

Richard explained that students are often overloaded with course work during their first year and reducing the credits from 33 to 30 will allow them to retain information better. He noted that the degree already requires two semesters of Civil Procedure, but the proposed curriculum would divide the course, requiring 2 credits in the Fall and 3 credits in the Spring, as opposed to 3 credits per semester.

He noted to the committee that Law 820—a statutory reading course focused on the specific language and understanding of legal statutes—is being replaced by Law 821, a library research course. Law 821 deals primarily with online legal research, the result of a shift toward accessing information and resources on the web. The course may be taught by law librarians. Richard noted that the College of Law elected to reword the Upper-Division Writing Requirement at the recommendation of the UCC.

Tim noted that a required course, Law 815, is listed from 0 to 5 credits. Richard acknowledged the unusual treatment and explained that students take 815 in both Fall and Spring semesters, but do not receive credit until the end of the Spring semester because student success is best measured by what they accomplish during the second semester. Dan noted a typo: Law 813 included the phrase “(Spring Only),” but it is not a Spring Only course. It was moved and seconded to approve all law changes, with the removal of “(Spring Only)” from the 813 description. The motion passed unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS

Kenton noted to the committee that he had been assured that no one from the State Board office would micro-manage the catalog offerings. He also noted that he is recommending to the UCGE that they include the five University learning outcomes in the preamble, in part because they aren’t listed elsewhere. Kenton told the committee that he asked the English department to revise descriptions to reflect the oral components of certain classes, but the only urgent change is clarifying the 6 credit requirement for the Engl 101/102 combination. Heather noted that for students who go on to graduate school, it is helped to require both courses. Mark asked why any program would require 101 after 102 and Heather responded “you’d be surprised.”

Kenton asked whether there would be time to consider the changes next week and Patricia responded: “We seemed to reach a pretty good consensus. I raised the questions that were raised around this table. I think we got pretty much to the bottom of it.” Heather asked: “We won’t require oral at all now?” and Don responded that it isn’t currently required. Mark noted that imposing separate written and oral communication requirements is different from requiring oral communication. He clarified that the division between the two is a separate issue from the requirements themselves. He suggested that it would be beneficial for the University of Idaho General Education requirements to include the divided
communication components. Kenton responded that he didn’t want to bring them up until there is consensus in CLASS regarding how to offer them.

Hearing no additional questions, the Chair closed the meeting at 4:40. UCC will reconvene on Monday, March 7th.

Grace Miller
UCC Secretary