MINUTES OF

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON CURRICULA

August 24, 2016

Present: K. Basom, R. Christ, C. Christopher, C. Curran, K. Dhanwada, M. Fienup, A. Gabriele, D. Heistad, K. Martin, J. Morgan, C. Nedrow, P. Patton, G. Rhineberger-Dunn, S. Riehl, V. Robinson, M. Timmerman, D. Wallace, M. Wheeler

Absent: G. Pohl

Guests: D. Cyphert, L. Geisinger, D. Hotek, L. Jepsen, B. Kanago, A. Kashef, J. Ophus, L. Riedle, P. Shand

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dhanwada at 3:00 p.m. in the Presidential Room, Maucker Union.

I. Welcome and Introductions

UCC Chair Dhanwada welcomed all present. Introductions followed.

Riehl nominated Dhanwada for chair, Gabriele seconded. Motion carried.

Dhanwada noted she had requested the Faculty Senate to consider adding today's new program proposals being discussed at UCC, if approved, to be on the docket at the head of the order for their first meeting on September 12. The request was made by Dhanwada so that the Faculty Senate could discuss these proposals and if approved, there would still be adequate amount of time to gain external approvals including ICCPHSE and the Board of Regents.

II. Curriculum Review Procedures for BA in Physics

Morgan moved, Fienup seconded to approve the BA in Physics program.

Shand provided an overview of the proposed new major. He believes the reintroduction of the BA in Physics will increase both enrollment and retention within the program. The department now offers the BS in Physics with no BA option. He believes the department will be able to recruit more students who are interested in Physics but who may be less mathematically inclined. Current BS students who are less successful in mathematics get to the advanced physics level courses and often leave the current BS program and sometimes leave the university. The BA in Physics option requires less mathematics, so it could allow students to stay in the department and graduate with a Physics major. The suggested BA program could also serve as a potential double major (for majors such as Computer Science, Biology, etc.) that would allow these students to be more marketable in the job field. The current BS is not as a viable an option to double major for most students.

Dhanwada asked for questions and discussion from the group.

Riehl noted that an editorial change was necessary: "MATH 14221" listed as a requisite to a course in the plan of study, and it needed updated to reflect the appropriate course, "MATH 1421."

Fienup noted in the Program Requirements section for "Electives", the term "NATURAL SCIENCES OR MATHEMATICS" should be removed and instead should list the prefixes of appropriate courses that compose the natural sciences and mathematics to be clearer. Thus, prefixes for Biology (BIOL), Chemistry and Biochemistry (CHEM), Computer Science (CS), Earth Science and Environmental Sciences (EARTHSCI, ENV SCI), Mathematics (MATH, STAT, ACT SCI), Physics (PHYSICS), or Technology (TECH) should be listed. Also, an editorial change should be made in the line below: "Elective courses must be courses that count toward a major in the department that offers the course." (removal of "natural science or math" phrase).

Gabriele questioned why the program was cut in 2012 and now what changes justify the program's reintroduction; what has the department changed about the program that would prevent it from being cut again in the future. Shand responded by noting that the program was previously cut due to low enrollment (graduating less than 10 students per year), but he believes the current administration has a different viewpoint when looking at the success of a program; he hopes that they will compare numbers to similar Physics programs across other institutions in the country rather than comparing with other programs at UNI. Shand shared that many institutions graduate less than 10 physics

majors per year, and he believes that UNI's Physics program is exemplary in their graduating numbers currently when looking across the entire nation. Gabriele suggested it would be important to explain all the benefits students receive with a Physics BA in their job marketability.

Dhanwada asked if the proposed BA would use all of the same courses as the BS, so that no new courses would need to be offered. Shand said that would be the case.

Question was called on the motion to approve with the recommended editorial changes brought forward by Riehl and Fienup.

- Riehl noted that an editorial change was necessary: "MATH 14221" listed as a requisite to a course in the plan of study, and it needed updated to reflect the appropriate course, "MATH 1421."
- Fienup noted in the Program Requirements section for "Electives", the term "NATURAL SCIENCES OR MATHEMATICS" be removed and should instead list the prefixes of appropriate courses that compose the natural sciences and mathematics to be more clear.

Motion carried unanimously and PHYSICS-BA program was approved.

III. Curriculum Review Procedures for New Major BAS-Technology

Fienup moved, Morgan seconded to approve the BAS-Technology program.

Riedle provided an overview of the BAS-Technology major. Geisinger noted that the major is geared toward the working adult. Kashef noted that there would be no new courses required for this major. Riedle noted that the current BA-Technology Management major is currently offered online by the department, so they have been working with Continuing Education already in the development of this new BAS major.

Dhanwada called for questions and discussion.

Morgan noted in the pre-meeting, it was discussed that 15 hours per semester would be the recommended course load for students. Dhanwada stated she had followed up with Riedle after the pre-meeting, and it was noted that the department was looking at the typical 2 courses/per semester that would be appropriate for working adults. While there would be very few students that would be expected to take 15 credit hours in one semester, rather, most students would take 6 credit hours per semester.

Heistad had some questions on what the specific LAC requirements were for the BAS degree. She noted that she was recently made aware that there were some last minute changes made at a previous Faculty Senate meeting, so she asked for clarification on those changes. Dhanwada explained that the LAC requirements for the proposed BAS Technology were in line with what had passed in the Faculty Senate last October. What passed in the Faculty Senate was an abbreviated LAC where one class from each of the categories was required; the change instituted by the Faculty Senate was that instead of a Capstone credit, students could also substitute that requirement with another course from Categories 2-5.

Heistad expressed concern that the department was not being transparent in the amount of credits that they were requiring students to take to complete the program. If students are unable or not wanting to take the department recommended courses to satisfy their LAC requirements, they would be required to add an additional 10 credit hours to their program. She felt the program was requiring students to take specific LAC courses, and she did not feel that was the original intent of the LAC requirements; Heistad noted the LAC was originally supposed to have the advantage of students being able to work with others outside of their cohorts and across departments. Additionally, Heistad noted that UNI prides itself on providing many options for students within the LAC, and she felt that limiting student's options for what to take to satisfy their LAC requirements would be going against what the original purpose of the LAC was.

There was discussion that students would be given recommendations (advising statements) on what LAC courses should be taken for the major so that they could complete their degree in a timely manner, similar to other majors

offered at the university. In this case, with an online cohort program, choice was going to be limited as to what can be offered to students via distance education in one semester. If students were willing to come to campus and take courses on campus, they could do so but the intent was for students to take courses online. Others agreed that only in a "perfect world" would a student be able to complete their requirements in 120 credits if the advising notes were not followed by the student, and there was a lot of discussion as to whether the total amount of credits for the degree should be listed as 120-129 in an effort to be transparent about that fact. Wallace responded by noting it is our current practice to list the totals that the students could complete in the specified time and where the students can double dip to satisfy both a degree requirement and an LAC requirement. This is what happens for all other programs at UNI. With proper advising, students have the ability to complete this program in 120 hours, so that should be listed as the total hours required.

Heistad expressed continued concern that students may not be able to take department recommended courses if they are not offered in a particular semester. Dhanwada noted that this could be a problem and that there were plans for all of the new BAS degree programs to get together soon along with Continuing Education to work through the scheduling issues. This way, departments may be able to advise their cohorts correctly from the beginning as to which term the department recommended LAC courses will be offered.

During the discussion, it was noticed CHEM 1020: Chemical Technology was listed as a 3-credit course in the program of study rather than a 4-credit course. With this change, it increased the number of total credits in the major. Thus, in an effort to keep the total credit hours the same, it was recommended that one of the two 3000-level electives with 3 credit hours within the program be removed, and so students would have 2 credit hours of university elective.

Additionally, it was noted that the pre-requisites for STAT 1772, which is a course required within the major, could potentially require students to take an additional course if the appropriate math placement score on ALEKS was not achieved by the student. A statement needs to be added: "If students are not able to achieve the required ALEKS test score, they may be required to take an additional course to meet the requirements." It was recommended that this information be included in the program of study for transparency reasons.

Finally, there was much confusion as to how the program was listed in Leepfrog. It was proposed that the program of study be re-vamped to be as transparent and as clear as possible and include advisory notes for the LAC courses. Wallace noted that it will be much easier to read when put into the correct LeepFrog format.

Question was called on the motion to approve if amended as discussed:

- Change CHEM 1020 to 4 credits instead of 3 credits, remove one 3000-level department elective, thus making the LAC requirements 25 credit hours, 6 credit hours of Communication classes, 37 major requirements (this includes 10 credit hours of the LAC courses), which leaves 2 credit hours of University Electives to make 60 credit hours total.
- Articulate advisory notes clearly.

Motion carried unanimously and BAS-Technology Management program was approved.

IV. Curriculum Review Procedures for New Major BAS-Managing Business and Organizations and associated new courses (10): BUSINESS 3025, 3030, 3035, 3050, 3060, 3065, 3070, 4040, 4045, 4055

Christ moved, Rhineberger-Dunn seconded to approve the BAS-Managing Business and Organizations program and 10 associated new courses.

- BAS-Major Managing Business and Organizations
- BUSINESS 3025 *Business Analysis Techniques*
- BUSINESS 3030 *Accounting Concepts*
- BUSINESS 3035 *Information Systems for Professionals*
- BUSINESS 3050 *Work Experience and Management Theory*
- BUSINESS 3060 *Law, Society and Business*
- BUSINESS 3065 *Entrepreneurship and Opportunity*

- BUSINESS 3070 *Topics: Effective Business Practices*
- BUSINESS 4040 *Applied Business Finance*
- BUSINESS 4045 *Practical Marketing for Organizations*
- BUSINESS 4055 *Talent Management*

The LAC requirement was once again brought up with this BAS major. The program recommends that students should take the ECON 1031 as the Category 5 LAC course and want to include an advisory note as such. To resolve this issues, it was suggested that "ECON 1031 (0-3 credit hours) with department approval" be listed as a requirement within the program because it is a pre-requisite for BUSINESS 4040 and 4045. ECON 1031 can satisfy the LAC Category 5. The department will request this course to be offered by Continuing Education early on in the program, so students that did not transfer in this course or an equivalent with their AAS can satisfy both at same time. Riehl thought it was important to note that you cannot transfer in credit to satisfy LAC Category 5 requirement, so students transferring in with ECON 1031 cannot satisfy LAC Category 5 with that course; they will have to take another course to satisfy that requirement.

Riehl questioned whether this meets accreditation, Jepsen noted that it does.

Before calling for the vote, Dhanwada paused to make sure that everybody felt that we were not rushing our discussion of the programs. In response, several UCC members noted that there had been sufficient discussion. Gabriele noted that he is willing to vote on these proposals as to whether they meet the requirements that had been passed for the past, i.e. in technical terms, even if he might not necessarily agree with the BAS degree concept as a whole.

Question was called on the motion to approve the program with the 10 new courses if amended as discussed:

- "ECON 1031 (0-3 credit hours) with department approval" be listed as a requirement.

Motion carried unanimously and BAS-Managing Business and Organizations program with 10 associated courses was approved.

Chair Dhanwada stated the next meeting would be **3:00 p.m. August 31** in **Room 378, Library**, at which time the CBA curriculum packet will be reviewed.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan Wheeler

Office of the Registrar

mabw

cc: UCC

GCCC

Guests