EDUCATIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Friday, February 28. 2014

2:00-4:00 pm

Conference room, MCB 3-104

**East Bank Campus**

AGENDA

**Present:** David Kirkpatrick, Stefanie Wiesneski, Dr. Romas (visiting professor) Robin Wright, Abby Conover (visiting), Salman Ikramuddin, Nandini Ganesh, Sue Wick, Nikki Letawsky Shultz, Rogene Schnell, Jean Underwood, Jane Phillips, Taylor Boyle, Jim Cotner, Fumi Katagiri

**Absent:** Lorene Lanier, Paul Siliciano, Jim Cotner, Leslie Schiff, Meaghan Miller Thul

1. Approve minutes from January 31, 2014 meeting
2. Old Business
3. New Business
   * **Nature of Life course review and update (Abby)**

The Nature of Life sequence will now be a two-year, four-semester program beginning with the Nature of Life Itasca Summer Itasca Experience, and followed by four semester-long courses awarding 0.5 credits each semester. Students will take Biol 1805/06 the first year and Biol 2905/06 the second year. (See handout on Moodle site). By adding on the second year, we hope to increase retention and raise GPA, and create a more solid support network for all students.

Concerns include instances where students get off sequence. One of the resolutions is that exceptions will be made for NAS students who transfer into CBS sophomore year. Some students will be able to do 1.0 credit load of work in a single semester, or we may waive 0.5 credits to allow students to graduate. If students are planning to study abroad sophomore year, we will explicitly advertise that they should talk to an academic advisor, and we will work with them to make course exceptions. Right now, we will advertise to Biol 1806 students that if circumstances don’t allow them to do take both semesters next year, they should contact Abby Conover.

Is there a difference between this extended NOL and the career planning course Biol 2001, required for all Dean’s Scholars? Yes, there are elements from Biol 2001 that are similar, however these will not be duplicative but rather complementing the Dean’s Scholars curriculum. For this reason, students are able to choose their own “path” in Biol 2905/06, and Dean’s Scholars will have a recommended track. Right now, students cannot take Biol 2001 in lieu of Biol 2905/06. The second year curriculum is flexible and students can create their own curriculum as to not replicate other courses they are taking. However, we will continue to talk about the idea of Biol 2001 in lieu of Biol 2905/06 for the future.

It is essential that advisors know all of the ‘hidden” information and exceptions so they can advise students accordingly, even if students don’t know. Exceptions need to be well defined for advisors.

* + **BioC 4301/5301 discussion (Dr. Romas Kazlauskas)**

Proposed course on protein engineering (ex. laundry detergent to remove food stains, blood stains, etc.) Dr. Kazlauskas has given this course before in South Korea with a small class size of five to 12 students. Would like this course available for fall 2014 rather than spring 2015 as there are a couple other courses in spring that are similar.

This course will be based on papers, very interactive; students doing examples to look at protein structures and make predictions. Students will start with a goal (which is often difficult for students to do) and then come up with a project towards the end of the semester (students usually picked their research projects to work on). This course provides an authentic research experience where students will think about, analyze, propose a project, and then present on their findings.

It may also be interesting if Dr. Kazlauskas presented a campus-wide seminar on this topic.

Voting: Unanimous support from those in attendance.

Action: Change course # to 4501 and 5501, to have a larger designator than the pre-requisite. Perhaps change the title from ‘engineering’ to something else, so engineering students don’t take this course thinking it is something else. Should run title by Paul Strykowski.

* + **Student Services Trends and Updates (Stefanie and Nikki)**

Provided handouts that outline credit breakdown by major to show differences in how credits are distributed throughout curriculum and discrepancies in numbers of credits in each major. Handed out same breakdown for 2006 curriculum to illustrate changes in the last eight years.

ASR is working on a "Promoting Timely Graduation by Undergraduates" policy. Work is just beginning and language in flux, but calculations of percentage degree completion would be made using same methods of credit breakdown used in the analyses provided.

* + **Can CBS minors be awarded to non UMNTC Students? (Stefanie and Nikki)**

There is an instance where a student wants a neuroscience minor from UMN (registered at Rochester). Student is able to drive to UMN a couple days a week (while enrolled in Rochester), or take a leave at Rochester to enroll in UMN. The Registrar’s office says this is a collegiate decision.

If a student is willing to put forth the effort, and get can here, then why not? If administratively and logistically everything worked out, student should be allowed. This will only be allowed for students within the University System (Rochester, Duluth, etc.)

There was question of how these students would be admitted, and how they would declare a minor. Student Services would work with the students ‘home’ campus to have it put on their record and they would be enrolled as a multi-institutional study student for that semester.

*Action*: Because not all of the DUGs were present at this meeting, we will consult with them, especially Lorene Lanier from Neuroscience. We will discuss this at the next EPC meeting, and Stefanie will come back with some more logistical information on the process.

1. Announcements
   * **Update on the status of the Cell Bio Lab, GCD4025 (David)**

To increase enrollment we will likely increase from two to three credits and change the title to something like ‘developmental and stem cell lab’. We will also add stem cell and development modules to the lab to increase interest for students, and are looking at making it a writing intensive course. When this is finalized, David will do another EPC announcement. These changes will be effective for Spring 2015. Equipment needs need to be sent to Jane Phillips ASAP. Classroom scheduling for Spring 2015 is happening now, and if changes need to made in schedule, David must contact Jean Underwood. David should also check with Leslie and Paul to see whether or not the curriculum committee needs to sign off on these changes.

* **Updates on senior survey (Robin)**

Courtney Hoff, assistant data analyst, presented at the last DUGs meeting. There were suggestions to reword some of the survey questions. Courtney continues to work on the survey, and will continue to keep you informed of this.

* **Update about forming a Department of Biology Teaching & Learning (Robin)**

Had a meeting with some individuals in CEHD, and we have enthusiastic support for this new department. Dean Elde will present it to the Provost in March.

* **Update on Digital Biology Initiative (Robin)**

There was an RFP for faculty to use technology in their classrooms. We do have five or six projects going on currently. Will have those people come to EPC to present their projects late this semester, or early next semester.

* **DUGs to host informal roundtable conversation for graduating seniors? (Robin)**

We don’t have a celebratory event to send off our seniors. Would be nice to connect students with the DUGs. The CBS Student Board would like to help with this kind of event to celebrate seniors. Perhaps there could be one main event but have multiple rooms for each major? We will continue to brainstorm ideas for this event.