2016-2017 Faculty Committee on Graduate Education, Continuing Education, and Special Programs

MEETING

Monday, February 20, 2017
Beatty 301

Committee members: Christine Finnan (Chair; TEDU & Anthropology), Barbara Beckingham (Secretary; Geology and Environmental Geosciences), Ben Cox (Mathematics), David Hansen (Management and Marketing-Research), Michael Lee (Communications)

Ex-Officio: Brian McGee (Dean of the Graduate School of the University of Charleston, S.C.), Lynn Cherry (Associate Provost for Curriculum and Institutional Resources), and Mary Bergstrom (Registrar)

Guests: Divya Bhati (Office for Institutional Effectiveness and Strategic Planning), Josh Bloodworth (Office for Institutional Effectiveness and Strategic Planning), Robyn Olejniczak (Graduate School), Jon Hakkila (Associate Dean of the Graduate School), Julie Dahl, Franklin Czwazka, and Jerry Mackeldon (Registrar’s Office), Megan Gould (Academic Affairs).

A. Call to order.

Chair Christine Finnan calls meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

B. Review and approval of the minutes from the Monday January 23, 2017 meeting.

Approved unanimously.

C. New Business

A. URBP – Certificate changes
B. MPA – PUBA 514, PUBA 614, PUBA 615

Kevin Keenan joins meeting remotely via telephone. URBP certificate changes proposal outlines a change in a section of the certificate program from “Development Practice” To “Geographic Information Systems”, with a necessary course deletion, a course shift to another section, a course addition and increase in credit hours for a course from 3 to 4 credit hours.

It is noted that there is a political science GIS course currently at 300-level. In the future, it is possible that this will be moved to 400-level and cross-listed with PUBA 514 Urban applications of GIS.

Robyn Olejniczak raises the point that EVSS 605 Environmental Law & Regulatory Policy, a course to be added to the certificate in the proposal, is cross-listed with MPA course PUBA 634.
Brian McGee emphasizes that it must be clear, and the catalog has to state, that when a course is cross-listed it is acceptable for either of the prefixed cross-listed courses to count towards the degree program.

David Hansen asks: What does it mean that “measure is set to baseline” for assessment?
Kevin Keenan: No data yet to suggest how students will do in SLO, so this means that assessment metrics will need to be updated in the future.

Committee discusses paperwork. Would be helpful for all changes to be listed clearly upfront in package, in overall program outline and/or in cover letter. Paper work should be more straightforward after the roll-out of Curriculog.

David Hansen motions to approve, Michael Lee seconds; approved unanimously.

C. MFA – ARTM Electives, CREW Electives

Chair Christine Finnan introduces proposal as there is no representative from the program. There are no questions. The proposal is a straight-forward addition of clearly-applicable courses to be listed as potential electives.
Barbara Beckingham motions to approve, Michael Lee seconds; approved unanimously.

Bret Lott arrives to meeting after his proposal is approved. Thanks Bret!
Brian McGee requests that all handwritten notes are cleaned up before it goes to the Faculty Senate.

D. MTLA – Concentration changes

Christine Finnan introduces proposal as the MTLA Program Director. All students take 6 core courses in the program, but then decide upon and take a set of courses within a concentration area.

David Hansen: Are there Special Topics courses in all the other concentrations?
Christine Finnan: Yes. There is also a SMFT Special Topics for the Science & Mathematics concentration area (SMFT 697).

Ben Cox: Does the program outline differences in courses between the 600 and 700 level?
Christine Finnan: Core courses are spread out and the numbering increases following their intended progression. Also, the program borrows from other programs which adds to complexity. There is not a written policy.
Brian McGee: The current course numbering policy does not differentiate between 600-900 level. There is a general guideline to increase difficulty with increased number. A future discussion would be beneficial.

Robyn Olejniczak: Raises a question that confirms that in New Literacies concentration students must take 18 credits of electives total.

Barbara Beckingham: The part of the proposal that removes required courses from two of the concentrations and moves them to electives may remove a distinguishing element to the concentration. Could there be a benefit to anchoring the concentration using a required course? Otherwise, it may be possible to take a set of courses and have it be called two different things.
Christine Finnan: Notes that students may not be able to differentiate between these two concentrations because of overlap in Gifted and Talented course choices.

Brian McGee moves to table the proposal, David Hansen seconds; approved unanimously.

D. Old business
   A. Curriculog training – set dates

Christine Finnan makes the request that training be deferred until after the new committee is elected, since current committee members who do not plan to serve next year may not need the training.

Lynn Cherry: The purpose of this first training is to take a few hours to provide a broad overview of Curriculog. This could be beneficial for committee members to bring back to their departments and programs. During the summer and beginning of fall, there will be more involved workshops.

Barbara Beckingham: Is it going to be open to other faculty who might be interested in an introduction to Curriculog?
   Lynn Cherry: Sure

Curriculog training is scheduled for April 3 and 10, 3-4:30 pm.

B. Motion to By-Laws for Consideration of a New Committee for Continuing Education and Special Programs -- report on Senate action

Christine Finnan reports that our motion was deferred to the next Senate meeting due to time constraints.

C. Progress of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Future of Graduate Education

There is progress to report. Forum with chairs, directors and Deans on big questions such as: mission; relationship between research and graduate programs, and; recommended new directions for graduate programming. Two more forums open to the entire faculty this week. Board of Directors will receive a report by April 7.

E. Discussion of “stacking” courses for multiple certificates, endorsements, or degrees

Stacking here refers to stacking of credentials.

Brian McGee: Consultants from the Education Advisory Board posed the question whether it’s possible to stack credentials to add up to another credential (e.g. 2, 18-hr certificate programs to add up to a Masters degree). Could make argument that a course can only count towards 1 degree; another argument is that a certificate is not a degree, but a credential, and therefore that stacking certificates would be legitimate. There is precedent to this, for example when courses for a Masters degree are automatically rolled into a Doctorate degree. Another view is to set up an actual modular degree program, although no one is proposing to do this. Courses earned under a certificate program could be allowed to count towards a Masters degree. There is currently no policy at the College to define the allowed approach.
Jon Hakkila: Notes that over the last few years he has attended meetings on stackable degrees, and there are many variations on the theme.
Christine Finnan: Is there a down-side to allowing stackability?
Jon Hakkila: When you take a certificate, you don’t need to apply to a program.
Robyn Olejniczak: It is the expectation that students must be admitted to a program after taking a certificate.

Brian McGee: The more radical version of stacking of where certificates could be stacked to a Masters degree is a larger question.
The College will allow undergraduate stacking and a policy is currently being drafted. Lynn Cherry is working with Academic Standards on this.
Robyn Olejniczak: We already stack internally.

Barbara Beckingham: Would there be a time limit to allow a course to be stacked?
Brian McGee: One solution would be to just start the clock for a degree program once the student is admitted. A policy statement is needed. If committee were to say no stacking, would change current practices and would also need to change course catalog and advertisements.

Divya Bhatti: Are we talking about certificates that are stand-alone or certificates that are combinable with the intent of leading to a degree?
Brian McGee: There is some complexity in the different forms of stacking. But any clarification will be helpful. Academic Affairs, the Graduate School and Office of the Provost will bring a set of policy ideas that can align with the undergraduate policy as soon as it’s ready.
Robyn Olejniczak: What about courses that may be used towards two different degree programs? A certificate and concentration in the same exact thing exists in 1 graduate program (and will in the first undergraduate example).
Brian McGee: Would like to focus current policy on certificates.

F. For the good of the order

Brian McGee: On Friday, a letter was sent to The Citadel to establish for 3 phase process for a new policy for co-managing our 4 joint program agreements. Agreements span the dates of 1989 – 2009, may be written very differently, and need to be revised and made more consistent to program and institutional business practices.
Phase 1: Develop successor MOU for management of all joint programs to replace all previous agreements. Phase 1 is currently in progress, and will go through legal affairs before it is passed on to the Citadel.
Phase 2: Pattern of administration documents for all 4 joint programs to describe how programs run.
Phase 3: Strategic review of joint programs to improve programs.

Christine Finnan: Will there be a similar agreement with Clemson?
Brian McGee: Clemson agreement is from 2008, and stands up to review currently. The order has been made gooder.

G. Adjournment.

David motions to adjourn, Ben seconds; unanimously approved.

The next meeting will be held Monday March 20, 2017 in Beatty 301