

MINUTES
CALS Curriculum Committee Meeting
Tuesday, September 28, 2010, Noon – 1:30 pm
250 Agricultural Hall

Present: Stier (Chair), Bohnhoff, Fadl, Hayslett, Jackson, Martin, Mitchell, Pfatteicher (via phone), Pelegri, Paustian

Absent: Bednarek, Stubbings

Guest: Ventura (Soils)

NEW BUSINESS

Environmental Science Proposal

Steve Ventura presented an overview of the development of the Environmental Science Proposal. At this point, the CALS APC has reviewed the proposal in a preliminary fashion and would like feedback from the CALS Curriculum Committee regarding any identifiable concerns or issues pertaining to the proposal. (The L & S Curriculum Committee has also reviewed the proposal.) Several questions and comments brought up for discussion.

What is the merit of this proposal on top of certificates and other programs? Should something go away? (*Certificates will be scaled back from 20+ hours to 12 – 15 hours and will emphasize environmental literacy.*)

How different is this major from production science majors? (*Only the first two years are similar.*)

How will this affect other majors? (*It is expected that there will be a shift from Biology majors to Environmental Science majors.*)

Will a student be able to double major in Environmental Sciences and Environmental Studies? (*No.*)

Why does L & S require an additional major to the Environmental Studies major? (*Alone there is not sufficient depth for a career track or a full degree?*)

How will departments be credited for advising these intercollegiate students? How will these students be advised? (*Similar to the way they are for Biology.*)

How will the students fit in with the departments and university with respect to alumni? (*This is a bigger issue for L & S than CALS since we have faculty advisors.*)

How did the course list evolve for Environmental Studies since there are committee members that have suggestions for the list? (*A majority of the list came from the Environmental Studies Certificate.*)

Is there time to go back to the departments and discuss the proposal? BSE has a Natural Resources/Environmental Engineering (NR) option that was not mentioned in the Environmental Science Proposal. Suggestion - more Physical Science credits to make the major “more applied.” (*APC and department chairs will be reminded to discuss the proposals.*)

What process was used to share the proposal information with the departments? (*The department chairs were introduced to it and were instructed to take the information to the faculty. APC representatives were reminded to take the information back to the departments for a vote.*)

Will this major fit in with graduate programs? (*There is no explicit linkage at this time.*)

Steve Ventura (and others) are willing to attend department meetings upon request.

The CALS Curriculum Committee found no major issues with the proposal and felt there was nothing preventing their support of the proposal. They did want to address the BSE overlap and the time needed within their departments to review the proposal.

Stier will write a letter of support to the APC on behalf of the CALS Curriculum Committee. It was noted that these majors may be ready as early as Fall 2011.

Department Curriculum Requirements

Curriculum sheets from most of the CALS departments were distributed for review. Great progress has been made in compiling the information for these sheets. The committee felt the curriculum sheets from the departments need to be organized in a consistent way to help address the issue of double-counting and comparing majors. Lay out options for the curriculum sheets were also talked about. (At some point, there may be a need for a separate sheet for undeclared students.) These issues will continue to be discussed as the CALS Communications Department carries on with their piece in crafting the curriculum sheets. DARS programming capabilities must be kept in mind as the curriculum sheets are being redesigned.

Bohnhoff brought up a concern regarding the counting of foreign language credits. He feels that while the curriculum sheets are being revised, the committee should look at counting foreign language credits for students who have taken foreign language courses. Bohnhoff will be writing a position paper on this topic to bring before the committee.

A motion to adjourn was made by Paustian and seconded by Mitchell. **The motion passed.**

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.

October Meetings:

Tuesday, October 12th, Room 250, Agricultural Hall, 12:00 – 1:30 pm

Tuesday, October 26th, Room 250, Agricultural Hall, 12:00 – 1:30 pm

Submitted by Karen Martin