Minutes
COMMISSION ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES AND POLICIES
September 26, 2011
3:00 – 5:00 P.M. 230 Student Services Building

Present: R Panneton, (Chair); D. Thorp; S. Taheri; L. Cavuoto; B. Watford for R. Benson; D. Stauffer; M. Denbow; A. Nelson; S. Bennett; D. Smith; A. Scripa; J. Sible for L. Nam Chang; J. Penven; S. Sumner for A. Grant; R. Holloway; Y. Stivachtis; A. Hawthorne; V. Fowler; D. Zahm; S. McMullin; J. Rankin; J. Browder

Absent with Notification: D. Patterson; G. Schurig; N. Dam; K. Heiter

Absent without Notification: R. Sorensen; L. Beecher

Visitors: W. Dean; M. Maloney; B. Hendricks; S. Corcoran; B. Goodell; M. Wolfe; T. Long; P. Winistorfer; S. Ott Rowlands

Call to Order and Announcements
The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm by Robin Panneton, Chair.

Adoption of the Agenda
Motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda as amended. The motion to approve the agenda passed unanimously.

Announcement of approval and posting of minutes
Robin Panneton announced the September 12, 2011 minutes were electronically approved and can be accessed via the University Registrar website.

Old Business


New Business

Resolution 2011-12.B “Resolution for Renaming the Department of Wood Science and Forest Products to the Department of Sustainable Biomaterials”, First Reading.

Paul Winistorfer, Dean of the College of Natural Resources and Environment, provided summary background and justification for the requested department name change. As Dean Winistorfer explained, the name of the current department no longer reflects the discipline’s mission or the faculty’s expertise. Winistorfer noted the faculty work in wood, a sustainable biomaterial, but also with other
naturally derived polymers coming from fungi, algae and higher plants other than wood. The department currently supports 13 doctoral students in the Macromolecular Molecules Interface Institute (MII) and 16 students in the Macromolecular Science and Engineering (MACR) doctoral program. He noted the specific challenge of the existing nomenclature reflects a lack of uniformity nationally. Federal agencies and grant opportunities fall under the materials umbrella, not under wood science and forest products, impacting their faculty who are active across the NSF, NIH and other agency arenas. During discussion, the College of Engineering asked for clarification on the justification of the department name change and future degree revisions or additions. Robin Panneton responded by clarifying that SCHEV does not require the actions to occur jointly. The College of Engineering indicated their understanding of the desire to better reflect the department’s efforts but expressed concerns about student confusion as they have programs and courses also offered in biomaterials. Dr. Barry Goodell, department head for Wood Science and Forest Products, shared that the choice of sustainable biomaterials reflects the distinction between the two disciplines, especially in the area of biomedical biomaterials and the sustainable biomaterials. There was also concern raised as to the duplication of titles and of course descriptions of existing College of Engineering courses and the currently proposed courses from Wood Science and Forest Products. Steve McMullin responded that the duplication was not intentional and they will review the proposed courses to assure clarity and remove duplication. Discussion continued on the issue of the breadth of the department name change in the discipline of biomaterials. Mike Denbow indicated his google search of the term “biomaterials” revealed a broad array of disciplines that could lay claim to the title. He suggested a more granular department name is important to distinguish the department’s particular instantiation of biomaterials. Other commission members voiced concern about the breadth of sustainable biomaterials, suggesting alternate departmental names, such as Sustainable Forest Biomaterials or Sustainable Biobased Biomaterials to assure clarity and distinction from other biomaterials-related programs. Dr. Goodell responded that their recent surveys and collected data from other institutions and student interest responded more positively to a department named Biomaterials than Biobased Materials. Additionally, Dr. Tim Long, representing MII, expressed concern the name may misrepresent university efforts to a larger constituency. Dr. Goodell responded the faculty felt strongly as to the appropriateness of the suggested department name and did not believe the result would be disciplinary miscommunication either internal to the university or nationally. Dr. Mary Leigh Wolfe also shared her observation that some institutions reflected in the resolution as support for this nomenclature were not defined as such on their respective websites. The Chair closed the discussion and reminded the membership the second reading would occur October 10, 2011.

Resolution 2011-2012.C Policy on Untaught Courses in the Undergraduate Course Catalog and the Curriculum for Liberal Education First Reading.
Dan Thorp presented Resolution 2011-2012.C Policy on Untaught Courses in the Undergraduate Course Catalog and the Curriculum for Liberal Education. Noting the existing policy for removal of untaught graduate level courses, Dan Thorp shared the concerns of Dr. Wubah as to the lack of similar policy action at the undergraduate level. Additionally, recent review by the Committee on Undergraduate Curricula revealed 7% approved CLE course offerings have not been offered in 5 years. The CLE joined in the concern that failure to remove the courses misleads students in their curricular planning and progress toward the degree. It was commented that this “bait and switch” technique harms students, especially in implying we offer certain classes that the University no longer offers. As Dan explained, the policy would allow his office to review during the Fall semester any untaught courses. Departments would have an opportunity to justify an extension. Absent approval to continue the course, Dan’s office would forward to the University Registrar a list of courses for removal from the undergraduate course catalog and/or from the approved listing of courses in the CLE.

Reports from Commission Committees/Sub-Committees

Committee on Undergraduate Curricula
Diane Zahm presented the report of the Committee on Undergraduate Curricula meeting of September 16, 2011. Motion was made and seconded to approve the Committee on Undergraduate Curricula report of September 16, 2011. The motion passed unanimously.

For “First and Second Reading”
Unanimous Approval

New Courses Effective Spring 2012

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Course: AT 0714 – Hardscape Materials and Installation

College of Architecture and Urban Studies
Course: BC 3004 – Construction & Society

New Courses Effective Fall 2012

College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences
Course: TA 3514 – American Cinema Genres

Course: TA 3524 – The Cinema Director

Revised Checksheets Effective for Students Graduating in Calendar Year 2013

College of Engineering

Bachelor of Science in Materials Science and Engineering

Minutes

University Curriculum Committee for Liberal Education
Dan Thorp presented the University Curriculum Committee for Liberal Education minutes of September 7, 2011. The motion was made and seconded to accept the University Curriculum Committee for Liberal Education minutes of September 7, 2011. The motion to accept the minutes passed unanimously.

Other Business

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm

Submitted by,
Megan Maloney
Office of the University Registrar