Minutes of the CSBS Senate Meeting on 2/21/11

Present: Tim Strauss (Chair, Geography), Carol Weisenberger (History), Taifa Yu (Political Science), Otto MacLin (Psychology), Cyndi Dunn (SAC), Annette Lynch (SAHS), Jim McCullagh (Social Work), Philip Mauceri (Dean)

I. Approval of the minutes from 2/7/11

The minutes from 2/7/11 were approved with no changes.

II. Curriculum Review: History

History was represented by Bob Martin and Jay Lees. Their curriculum changes included changes to three course titles and descriptions and a change to the graduate level Practicum course, increasing the credit hours from 2 to 3 credits. This course provides students with supervised practice in teaching undergraduate students and the department felt that the workload is great enough to justify 3 hours of credit. A suggestion was made that the department consider changing the name of the “American Civilization” course to “U.S. Civilization” as a more accurate and less ethnocentric title.

The department is also proposing adding two new graduate courses. They noted that although they are not dropping any courses, they have dropped numerous courses in the past and also have a newer faculty member who will be contributing to one of these courses. The new course in U.S. Environmental History has been taught before as an experimental course and can be easily fit into the faculty member’s existing course rotation. The addition of the new graduate seminar in World Historiography is a response both to growing enrollment in the graduate program and a recommendation by the last external review to add more graduate level seminars. This also involves a restatement of the History M.A. program so that all students are now required to take both the seminar in U.S. Historiography and the seminar in World Historiography.

The Senate unanimously approved the proposed changes to the History curriculum.

III. Curriculum Review: Geography

Geography was represented by Patrick Pease and Andrey Petrov. They are making minor changes to titles and course descriptions for two courses including the Graduate Colloquium. This one-hour course is a departmental lecture series. Students are required to attend the lectures and write critical response pieces as way of furthering their professional development. The only change to the course is that it will now be offered in the spring as well as the fall.

The department is adding two “new” courses, both of which reinstate courses previously dropped. Satellite Image Processing was dropped because the only faculty member qualified to teach it had been granted course releases to fulfill other responsibilities. It can now be offered again due to the anticipated hire of a new faculty member.
The graduate-level Internship is also being reinstated as a required course in the proposed new P.S.M program (see below). Because internships are supervised individually as part of faculty member’s regular service load, the Internship course does not require any dedicated faculty resources that would otherwise be devoted to other courses. It was noted that the course may be taken for 1-4 credit hours, but that the wording also states “May be repeated for up to three credit hours.” This wording need to be changed or omitted to match the current four-hour maximum. The description should also be amended to include the ratio of service hours to credit hours which is currently lacking. Finally, it was noted that in the case of the P.S.M., many of the students will already be employed professionals. The department will need to develop criteria for the Internship to ensure that students receive credit only for assignments that actually involve the use and development of new skills pertinent to their P.S.M. education.

The department has made minor changes to the electives in the Certificate in Cartography and GIS and the B.S. in GIS. They have also restated the Geography major with Urban and Regional Spatial Analysis emphasis to reduce the overall program length to 120 hours by reducing the electives by three hours.

The Department of Geography is proposing a new Professional Science Master's in Geographic Information Science and Geospatial Analysis. This is a growing area of demand in across a wide variety of businesses and will help keep the department at the cutting edge of the field. It will be the only such program in the state of Iowa. The program complements the existing M.A. program by serving the needs of a different audience. Whereas the current M.A. has an academic focus intended to prepare students for a Ph.D. program, the P.S.M. program would be aimed at professionals desiring further development of technical and managerial skills. The department currently has approximately ten students in the existing M.A. program and would expect to attract at least this many to the P.S.M. program within seven years. The majority of graduate-level courses will be shared between the two programs. Thus, the program would not require additional faculty resources. In fact, it would allow for more efficient use of existing resources by creating higher enrollments in existing classes.

The Senate unanimously approved the proposed changes to the Geography curriculum.

IV. Other Business

Our college will need to elect a new representative to the University Faculty Senate for the 2011-2014 term. Senator Lowell will not be running for re-election due to phased retirement.

Representatives of the committee charged with restructuring the LAC will visit the CSBS Faculty Senate on March 21. The review of the curriculum for Political Science has been moved to March 28. Review of the WGS Curriculum will be conducted on March 21 if time allows.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cyndi Dunn