Minutes of the CSBS Senate Meeting on Monday, March 28, 2011

Present: Tim Strauss (Chair, Geography), Carol Weisenberger (History), Taifa Yu (Political Science), Tyler O’Brien as alternate for Cyndi Dunn (SAC), Annette Lynch (SAHS), Jim McCullagh (Social Work), Brenda Bass (Associate Dean).

I. Meeting called to order – 3:22 pm

II. Approval of the minutes.
Approval was put to a vote and the motion was passed.

III. Curriculum review – Political Science
Representatives from the department included: Ken Bassom, Donna Hoffman and Justin Holmes. There were no major changes, save for a few modifications to course titles and descriptions. These tended to just be more descriptive of course content and more appealing. There were no questions. A new class being offered is called: Political Communication.

There were two program restatements. For Public Communication, they removed the focus areas, cross listed courses, and lowered the credit hours for their internship from 3 to 4. For Public Administration, they dropped the number of credit hours for the major and lowered the credit hours for their internship from 3 to 4.

Brenda Bass posed a question regarding available resources.

The motion to accept these changes was passed.

IV. Curriculum review – the A and C of SAC
Representatives from the department included: Keith Crew, Richard Featherstone and Jian Li.

Any changes to the graduate program were tabled for a later meeting.
990 – Anthropology changes: course description to “Human Origins.” Tyler O’Brien presented justification. There was one minor question, from Jim McCullagh, regarding clarification on the wording but no big problem with its content.

The course called “Language and Culture” is being omitted from the Anthropology minor requirements. The anthropology major is also being restated. Students currently have an option of three different courses to fulfill the cultural anthropology requirement; this change will add one additional course option to this category.

The wording for the course description for Independent Study in Anthropology is being changed to the same wording found in the description for the same class in Sociology and Criminology.
980 – Criminology changes: proposals were offered for dropping some courses, description and frequency changes. This was described as some basic housekeeping for the major.

New courses that are being proposed were offered along with a restructuring of the “choose one of the following” categories. Now they have Groups 1, 2 and 3, which have multiple options
below each. Taifa Yu questioned availability of resources. Jim McCullagh asked about referring to the Iowa Courts in one of the new courses. Responses to these concerns were suitable. A new certificate program is being proposed called: “Crime Mapping and Analysis.” This is an interdisciplinary program between Criminology and Geography utilizing GIS.

Because discussion of the SAC graduate program in Sociology/Criminology is postponed to a later meeting, acceptance of these changes is tabled.

V. Discussion of LAC proposed revisions and possible CSBS Senate statement
Brenda Bass commented that she has received some feedback. She is chair of the Category 5 coordinating committee. Summary: retain the same LAC model but with some tweaking. Many voiced some concerns about the proposed models and potential changes and complications. The proposal of a cornerstone course, an interdisciplinary program and the rigors of these were questioned. From a practical standpoint, other issues were voiced regarding resources, and suitability of the introductory courses working well for graduate school and future programs. In general many agreed that more reading and writing emphases are needed.

There was general agreement to keeping 9 credit hours to category 5 but a willingness to modify or work to change this. Reviews and student outcomes show that Category 5 is strong!

There was some minor discussion in respect to the cornerstone course proposal. Annette Lynch and Carol Weisenberger weighed in on this.

Jim McCullagh posed the addition of writing and foreign language components to the new LAC.

Tim Strauss read from emails that supported or commented on the current LAC model.

Do we want a statement on this issue about the LAC model(s): the answer was YES. Tim wrote a summary statement and previewed it with the group.

VI. Discussion of schedule for future curriculum reviews
Monday April 4th will be the meeting when discussion of further curriculum reviews will occur. A meeting on the 18th will take care of any spill-over issues. It is projected that the Dean will be talking about strategic planning at this meeting.

VII. CSBS elections for university committees
The ballot for University Committees is just about done and will be submitted promptly.

VIII. Comments from Dean Mauceri
The dean was not in attendance. There were no comments

The meeting was adjourned at 5:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Tyler O’Brien