EDUCATIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Friday, April 25, 2014

2:00-4:00 pm

Conference room, MCB 3-104

**East Bank Campus**

AGENDA

**Present:** Paul Siliciano,Leslie Schiff, Sue Wick, Nikki Letawsky-Shultz, Robin Wright, Salman Ikramuddin, Jim Cotner, David Kirkpatrick, Taylor Boyle, Fumi Katagiri, Lisa Novack (visitor), Interim Dean Tom Hayes (visitor)

**Absent:** Jane Phillips, Lorene Lanier, Jean Underwood, Nandu Ganesh, Meaghan Miller Thul, Stefanie Wiesneski

1. Approve minutes from March 28, 2014 meeting

Approved.

1. Old Business

* **Updates on the search for Physics and Biologists/ Physics for Life Sciences textbook search. (Taylor)**

Taylor will identify a couple courses at other institutions that have this kind of Physics for Biologists/ Physics for Life Sciences courses. Taylor should look at Maryland, and also research Physics Society (education section at AEPTS).

* **Any updates from Jim or Lorene regarding changing their department designators?**

EEB courses will all be changed from ‘BIOL’ designators to ‘EEB’ designators (Jim).

1. New Business
   * **Student Services Trends and Updates (Nikki)**

For this spring semester advisors have already seen 708 appointments. There were about 300 appointments last year at St. Paul. 37% increase on appointments from last semester. There has been a dramatic increase in Student Services appointments now that they are in MCB.

* + **Update on the proposed new Life Sciences Chemistry Series (Paul)**

This new chemistry series was developed for Life Scientists. Paul will email out learning outcomes of this. Currently in the chemistry department, the curriculum includes one semester of general chemistry, and two semesters of organic chemistry, but this curriculum is unhelpful for a Life Scientist. Many things that Life Scientists need come from the ochem 2 course, but most majors in CBS only require ochem 1, which then doesn’t help our students.

The new series will have the same courses but they will be taught differently and geared towards Life Scientists. The Chemistry Department doesn’t have an issue with this new chemistry. As a side note, CBS doesn’t want the chemistry department to serve as the ‘gatekeepers’ regarding whether or not a CBS student will be successful, if they weren’t successful in their chemistry courses.

As we talk about this new series, we should also empower students to seek out help or talk to someone if they believe a faculty or staff member is treating them unfairly. Also, with this new series, we should help students set up study groups, and have tutoring available (that we advertise so they are aware of). \*Note from Robin- UW-Madison has a one year general chemistry/ochem course sequence that should be reviewed by Paul as he is creating this new chemistry sequence

* + **Update on the Food for Thought: A Student Success Dialogue (Nikki)**

Last Friday we hosted the first ‘Food for Thought: A student Success Dialogue’ to bring CBS Faculty, Staff, and other campus partners together to begin brainstorming about student success and student retention. We will continue having these discussions, and host these events every so often.

* + **Pre-Health Initiatives updates (Pre-Health Coordinator- Lisa Novack)**

2013 Freshmen Experience Survey- 87% were interested in the Health Professions. The goals of this new Pre-Health Initiative are to provide programming to support CBS students, help them explore and understand different health professions, offer individualized health professional school advising and counseling support for pre-health students in CBS, and increase the percentage of CBS student admitted to professional health programs.

Lisa provides advising, counseling, programming/workshops for students (which bring students together, that have the same goals, to explode the health professions, prep for the MCAT, etc.), and she helps connect students with professional schools. She has met with over 500 students since Fall 2012, and has advised almost 2,000 students, via email. Right now we have an over 54% acceptance rate into medical schools for our CBS Students. If you have any students who would like to meet with her, have them schedule an appointment by calling CBS Student Services, or email Lisa directly.

* + **Update on new requirements for Plant Biology Major (Fumi Katagiri)**

The new curriculum has dropped the second semester organic chemistry course, and the second semester physics course. Students can still get AP credits from those courses that would be considered ‘elective credits’. This also means no more ochem lab, but students still have to take another kind of lab experience in order to fulfill the major requirements. Credits freed up from not taking second semester ochem and physics courses will give students a change to take more plant biology-related courses. Additionally, biology core requirements now include ecology AND evolution courses, instead of just one or the other as it was before. (See document on Moodle site with detailed curriculum updates)

The Plant Biology Department has already accepted these curriculum changes. CBS Advising has also been updated on this, and they will work with students accordingly.

4. Announcements

* + **Physiology major to offer Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts (Robin)**

Physiology major (which is part of The College of Liberal Arts) is trying to push for a Bachelor of Science in Physiology, rather than just offering a Bachelor of Arts. CLA is moving to approve this through Bob McMaster, but CBS opposes it. Dean Elde is having this conversation and we will wait to hear updates from him.

With this idea, do we begin to offer BA’s for our majors? What would that entail? We did have a BA in Biology in CLA, and those students’ success rates were always lower than our CBS students. Making a new BA program might be more difficult than creating minors geared towards non-CBS students.