**EDUCATIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

Friday, September 20, 2013

2:00-4:00 pm

CBS Dean’s Conference Room, 123 Snyder Hall

St. Paul Campus

**MINUTES**

Present: David Kirkpatrick, Leslie Schiff, Fumiaki Katagiri, Martha Flanders, Sue Wick, Sehoya Cotner, Bob Meisel, Robin Wright, Nikki Letawsky Shultz, Rogene Schnell, Jean Underwood, Salman Ikramuddin, Katherine Kelsey

Missing: Paul Siliciano, James Cotner, Jane Phillips, Adam Harvey, Taylor Boyle, Nicole Waxmonsky, Meaghan Thul

**1. Approve minutes from May 17, 2013 meeting**

Approved.

**2. Old Business**

**Elect New EPC Chair for 2013-2014 Academic Year**.

David Kirkpatrick was nominated, the vote was unanimous, and he agreed to be chair.

**Update on Molecular Biology Intensive class (David Kirkpatrick)**

The DUGs have been discussing the creation of a Molecular Biology Intensive class over the summer. CBS students would be required to pass this course in order to take upper division CBS courses. It’s envisioned as a seven-week course that would be offered twice per semester. Two professors, representing different fields in biology, would team teach this topical and techniques focused course. Offering this course would allow faulty to remove the topics covered in the Molecular Biology Intensive course i.e DNA, chromosomes, protein synthesis, etc. from their courses thus allowing other topics to be covered. Additional benefits of offering this course are that it would flatten requirements, students could take biochemistry, cell and genetics in any order, it would eliminate the redundancy of having these topics covered in multiple courses and there would be one place where these topics are taught. A formal course proposal will be brought to the October or November EPC meeting. The plan would be to begin offering the new course in summer 2014.

Issues still to be resolved include if it will be restricted to CBS students and if it will be a requirement for upper level online versions of CBS courses.

**3. New Business**

**Discussion of the EPC voting status of the CBS minor directors (David Kirkpatrick)**

Most minors are represented at CBS because they are affiliated with a CBS major. But, in recent years we have added a few free-standing minors specifically Pharmacology and Marine Biology. And in the case of Neuroscience, a minor director (Bob Meisel) has been appointed who is different from the DUGs for the major (Martha Flanders)

According to the CBS Constitution, in order for a non-voting member to be allowed to vote, a majority of EPC voting members must approve the change or request.

It was decided to take a “wait and see” approach to changing the voting structure in EPC. Since the free-standing minors are relatively new, it would seem prudent to see if it’s necessary to change the voting procedures. Everyone agreed that the minor DUGs would be added to the mailing list, invited to attend EPC meetings as non-voting members and have access to minutes and EPC materials stored on the Moodle site.

**Neuroscience Minor Update (Bob Meisel)**

Currently 500 students per year are taking NSci 1001, One hundred seventy students are enrolled NSci 1100, fall 2013 and 96 are in NSci 3001. Eighty-one students have declared the Neuroscience minor. Martha Flanders advised Bob Meisel that he should add NSci Group A and B courses to the minor elective list. It was discussed that it might be advisable to change the name of the Neuroscience major since there is some confusion about the difference between the major and minor. Some students think it will be easy to move from the minor to the major and that just isn’t the case. The major and minor are aimed at very different student populations.

**Proposed course – NSci 2100/3100, Mind and Brain (Bob Meisel)**

This course is targeted at advanced sophomores and early juniors and provides a broad coverage of the topics in the course. There are no prerequisites. It will be a large enrollment course but lots of student interaction has been built into the course. Students could take NSci 2100/3100 or NSci 3001 as one of the required courses for the minor. The plan is to teach it starting spring 2014. Professor David Redish would be the course instructor and he has written the book that will be used in the course. Professor Redish will be advised that he needs to complete the required paperwork regarding the policy that faculty are prohibited from accepting royalties generated from a required book in their own course. Jean Underwood will find information about the form and share it with Professor Redish.

After discussion, it’s the EPC’s recommendation that the course be offered as NSci 3100. A 3XXX level course would attract students at the desired level and would be an equivalent level to NSci 3001.

Professor Redish needs to provide evidence of consultation with departments that offer a course similar in nature for the Campus Curriculum Committee. He was asked to revise the SLO’s on the course proposal form and to provide a syllabus for the course. Once this information is available, Taylor Boyle will post it on the EPC Moodle site, EPC members will be invited to review it, and a vote will be taken via email.

Once approved, DUGs will need to decide if they want to include this course as elective for their majors and ECAS will need to be updated.

**Vote on Level change for Biol 2004 (David Kirkpatrick)**

It was proposed that EPC approved the change of Biol 2004 to Biol 3004. This move would formally separate the courses Biol 2003 and Biol 2004 and make the course more attractive to transfer students. The proposal was passed.

**CBS plans to address Vision and Change recommendations for undergraduate education. (Sue Wick)**

The American Association for the Advancement of Science with support from the National Science Foundation (NSF) has provided leadership to discussions about the future of undergraduate biology education. Bob Elde, Sue Wick and Robin Wright recently attended the Vision and Change Conference in Washington DC. Sue Wick shared with EPC the Call to Action and four key recommendations that include: 1. Integrate Core concepts and Competencies throughout the Curriculum. 2. Focus on Student-Centered Learning, 3. Promote a Campuswide Commitment to Change, 4. Engage the Biology Community in the Implementation of Change.

Conference participants were charged with sharing the Vision and Change report broadly on their campuses. In CBS a good example of implementation of the recommendations can be seen through the cluster hiring initiative. It’s expected that new hires will participate in active learning teaching. As a part of the interview candidates were given tours of active learning classrooms and their offer letter states that there would be professional development opportunities to learn about evidence based teaching approaches – scientific teaching methods.

An interesting example of what we are learning about active learning classrooms is Sehoya Cotner’s research on the Impact of Active Learning classroom on student learning. She compared two learning environments – traditional and active learning classrooms. She looked at student’s ACT score and GPA and found that there was a statistically significant difference in grades achieved by students who were in active learning classrooms versus those in traditional classrooms.

Sue was encouraged to provide information about the Vision and Change recommendations on the CBS website.

**4. Announcements**

**UMR Updates (David Kirkpatrick)** Information about UM Rochester can be found on the EPC Moodle site.

**Date of October meeting (David Kirkpatrick)** Since so many DUGs will be out of town on the October EPC meeting, we will poll members to see if the week before or the week following the regularly scheduled meeting are viable alternatives.

**Student Learning Objectives (SLO’s)(Jean Underwood)** SLO’s are needed for all CBS courses as a part of our preparation for the accreditation visit in 2015. Jean Underwood will send DUGs a list of their courses needing SLO’s and DUGs will request SLO’s from faculty in their department.

**Pharmacology minor (Jean Underwood)** At our next EPC, Pharmacology will introduce a new lab course for approval.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10pm