**CBS Education Policy Committee**

**2012-2013 Academic Year**

**ANNUAL SUMMARY**

**Curriculum Changes/Updates**

**AT A GLANCE…**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Course** | **Approved** | **LE/WI** | **Dropped**  | **Changed** | **Not Approved** |
| Biol 1055Lab for Biol 1050 – *Environmental Biol* | X |  |  |  |  |
| Biol 2007*Marine An Div Lab* | X |  |  |  |  |
| Biol 3001*Nature of Science and Research* | X |  |  |  |  |
| Biol 3002 and Biol 3005W *Plant Function & Plant Function Lab* | X | WI |  | Uncoupled |  |
| Biol 3310 *Research Seminars in Biology* | X  |  |  |  |  |
| Biol 4590*Coral Reef Ecology* | X |  |  |  |  |
| Biol 4596*Coral Reef Ecology**(SCUBA)* | X |  |  |  |  |
| Biol 4950*Tropical Ecosystems* | X |  |  |  |  |
| BioC 8216*Signal Transduction* | X |  |  | Renumbered to BioC 5216 |  |
| EEB 4611*BioChemical processes* | X |  |  | Will now be offered at Itasca as EEB 4811 |  |
| GCD 5005*Comp Programming in Cell and Dev Biol* | X |  |  |  |  |
| MicB 4121 – *Microbial Ecol & Applied MicB* | X |  |  | Changed designator to Biol (4121) |  |
| PBio 5309*Molecular Ecol & Ecological Genomics* | X |  |  | Changed designator to Biol (5309) |  |
| Marine Biology minor | X |  |  |  |  |

**New or Revised Policies**

**Updates and Discussion Topics**

* Announcement: Stu Goldstein elected chair of EPC for 2012-2013 academic year
* Announcement: DUG’s will hold monthly meetings for more involved discussion of issues brought to EPC.
* Announcement: Taylor Boyle will set up a Moodle site for EPC. Minutes will be archived on the Moodle site in addition to the EPC site that is a part of the CBS website.
* Announcement: UM Accreditation self-study, scheduled Summer 2014 – SLO’s and syllabi will be needed for all courses.
* Announcement: UM Rochester. First freshman class is entering their senior year. One hundred fifty six freshmen matriculated fall 2012. Anticipating accreditation by September 2014. Will graduate it’s first baccalaureate class in May 2013.
* Announcements: Robin Wright was elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.
* Announcement: Sue Wick received the Horace A. Morse Alumni ward for Outstanding Contributions to Undergraduate Education.
* Announcement: Bill England will conduct a survey of all CBS students about their Directed Research experience. The purpose of the survey is to determine the effects of working in research on a student’s ability to prepare for a career in the life sciences. The survey instrument to be used was developed by David Lopatto of Grinnell College. Bill will keep EPC posted on his progress with this project.
* Discussion: Creation of a Computational Biology emphasis within the Biology major. Sue Wick, in consultation with the Biology Major Advisory Committee, will further explore this proposal. A recommendation will be brought to EPC.
* Discussion: Online versions of BioC 3021, BIOL 4003 and 4004. It was decided that we need more data to determine if students are passing in larger numbers now that the courses are limited to a term versus nine months. At some point in the future, additional data will be brought back to EPC to be used in consideration of a change in policy of restricting CBS students from enrolling in online versions of our courses unless they’ve received special permission.
* Discussion: Require all multi-section courses to be assigned a course director. This idea will be explored with faculty and a recommendation will be brought back to EPC.
* Discussion: Should Foundations (Biol 2002, 2003, 2004) be a graduation requirement for transfer students as it is for NHS. This issue will be revisited by EPC once more information has been gathered.
* Discussion: Students are completing the requirements for a CBS degree without ever having been accepted into CBS. No policy changes were approved but rather we will take a wait and see approach to determine if this is becoming an issue versus an isolated incident. Possible actions would be to restrict one or two of our required courses to CBS students, review our admissions standards, or review each case individually.
* Discussion: Student Hunger. We are learning about students who are experiencing hunger. Discussed how to be respond when we learn about hungry students. Possibilities included a food shelf, collaboration with the student board, students donating meals from their food plan. We will continue to explore this issue.
* Discussion: Why aren’t Biol 3407, Biol 3409 and Biol 3411 considered lab/field courses. No vote was taken. Historically, the Itasca versions of these courses haven’t had a large enough lab/field component to qualify as lab/field courses.
* Discussion: What do we need to do to be prepared for the North Central accreditation, Summer 2015? Assessment of student learning will be a key component of the accreditation report. Syllabi and course proposal forms need to be gathered for all CBS courses as a first step in determining the uniformity of the earning outcomes and objectives amongst the various sections of the same course. Course exams will need to be reviewed to see how students are doing in meeting student learning outcomes that have been established for the course. It was suggested that we get the faculty who teach upper level courses together to evaluate how well Foundations is preparing students for their courses. It was further suggested that students be tested for mastery of content needed for upper level courses. If students don’t pass, they will need to relearn the material. It was also suggested that we get instructors together to evaluate their courses. Information gathered through this process would be used to change Foundations.
* Discussion: Consolidation of Molecular Biology in the core. It was proposed that we create a new Molecular Biology course for CBS majors that would cover DNA, chromosomes, protein synthesis, etc. This would mean that coverage of these topics in existing courses could be reduced thus allowing existing courses to cover new topics. It would also allow students to take biochemistry, genetics and cell biology in any order since the new Molecular Biology course would be the gateway course for upper division courses. The DUGs will work on a course proposal over the summer.
* Discussion: Quantitative requirement. Approved effective Fall 2013, Quantitative I requirement would consist of Math 1241 or Math 1271 and the Quantitative II requirement of three credits from a list of predetermined courses (Biol 3270, CSCI 1901, CSCI 3003, Math 1272, STAT 3011, (Biol 3272 or Biol 5272). Math 2243 will be removed from the Quantitative II list because Calc II is a prerequisite to Math 2243. All majors agree to this requirement except NSci which will require completion of a total of six credits for the Quantitative II requirement.
* Presentation: Duane Nykamp, Math dept, who developed a Math 1241, a calculus course for CBS students that focuses on biology. Dr. Nykamp consulted with CBS DUGs to determine desired course content.
* Presentation: Ron Huseman, OIR, shared some of the results from the 2012 SERU survey. CBS had a 48% response rate. Results can be sorted by major, gender, honors, classification, etc. DUGs will have access for all the data for their majors.