**CBS Education Policy Committee**

**2013-2014 Academic Year**

**ANNUAL SUMMARY**

**Curriculum Changes/Updates**

**AT A GLANCE…**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Course** | **Approved** | **LE/WI** | **Dropped** | **Changed** | **Not Approved** |
| NSci 3100  *Mind and Brain* | X |  |  |  |  |
| PHCL 4100  *Molecular Pharmacology Lab* | X |  |  |  |  |
| Biol 3809  *Evolution at Itasca* | X |  |  |  |  |
| Biol 2100  *Brewing: Biology, History, Practice* |  |  |  | Reactivated – Approval not needed. Announcement only. |  |
| Biol 5950  Special Topics: *Epigenetics* |  |  |  | Topic Course – Approval not needed. Announcement only. |  |
| Biol 2004 change to Biol 3004  *Foundations lab* | X |  |  | After vote, it was decided to have further discussion. |  |
| BioC 4351 and 5351  *Protein Engineering* | X |  |  |  |  |
| Biol 4321W | X |  |  |  |  |

**New or Revised Policies**

* Policy: It was agreed by the DUGs to restrict Directed Research, Studies, Research WI and Studies WI be to one section per department. This change makes it easier to keep track of student registration.

**Updates and Discussion Topics**

* Announcement: David Kirkpatrick elected EPC Chair for 2013-2014 academic year
* Announcement: Student Learning Objectives were gathered for all CBS courses as part of our preparation for the HLC accreditation visit in October 2015.
* Announcement: Sehoya Cotner received the Horace A. Morse Alumni ward for Outstanding Contributions to Undergraduate Education.
* Announcement: Christian Mohr received the Stanley Dagley-Samuel Kirkwood Undergraduate Education Award and Paul Siliciano received the John S. Anderson Leadership Award.
* Announcement: This year, the University conducted a salary equity study for faculty positions.
* Announcement: A grant proposal was written to improve undergraduate STEM education. The Foundations lab would be spread out over an entire academic year and that allows time for a boot campus, and for students to develop a hypothesis and conduct research.
* Announcement: The Merger Task Force met with interested parties to gather input about a possible merger between CFANS and CBS prior to making their recommendations.
* Announcements: Physiology major is exploring offering a B.S. degree in addition to their B.A. degree. This proposal will continue to be discussed.
* Announcement: Digital Biology initiative: The RFP resulted in about a half-dozen projects to infuse technological resources into courses. Awardees will at a later time report on their projects to EPC.
* Announcement: Changing BIOL designators to BIOL for EEB courses. The department decided to make this change to give their courses more visibility.
* Announcement: New requirement for Plant Biology major. Second semester of organic chemistry and second semester of physics have been dropped from the curriculum. This allows students more flexibility to take plant biology courses. Also, biology core requirements require both ecology and evolution instead of just one or the other.
* Announcement: 550 New High School Students have confirmed for Fall 2014 and 520 are expected to matriculate.
* Discussion: Scholastic Dishonesty. Reports of incidents of scholastic dishonestly are very low in CBS. The numbers may not reflect the actual occurrence but rather be the result of under-reporting. Nikki Letawsky-Shultz agreed to go to faculty meetings to discuss the process and talk about campus resources. DUGS will follow-up with their faculty.
* Discussion: NSci Minor. 81 students had declared the NSci minor in Sept 2013. It was recommended that it might be advisable to change the name of the major or minor since they are aimed at very different student population.
* Discussion: Voting status of CBS minor directors. Minors that are free-standing and not attached to a major are not represented on EPC. According to the CBS Constitution, in order for a non-voting member to be allowed to vote, the majority of EPC members must approve the motion. It was decided that directors of minors would be invited to EPC meetings but EPC will take a “wait and see” approach to the question of extending voting rights.
* Discussion: Student Services. Saw 1300 individual students for advising, fall 2013. The following suggestions were made to meet the increasing need for advising: group appointments should be consider, advisers specialize in different majors, or specialize in lower versus upper-division students, DUGs should do presentations about upper division courses with students, advisers should post a video about themselves/more extensive bio on website. Upper class students are not seeking out advising but this is true in other colleges at the U, too. Fall 2013 probation/suspension numbers: 36 students removed from probation, seven suspended, 23 are on third or more consecutive semester of probation. At the end of spring semester 2014, appointment numbers were up 37% from fall semester. The move to the Minneapolis campus has been a positive move that has resulted in greater student access to advising services.
* Discussion: Physics. Is it necessary for student to take a year of physics? Should physics be more biology focused? DUGs will discuss in their departments.

Discussion: Minors. Would it be advantageous to add more minors to the curriculum? Further discussion needed.

* Discussion: Decreasing enrollment in GCD 4025, Cell Biology Lab. Possible reasons include other options (Bioinformatics Lab), need for improvements to the Cell Biology Lab (being worked on), two credits for Cell Biology Lab versus three credits for Bioinformatics Lab, pre-requisites and timing of the Cell Biology Lab.
* Discussion: Professional schools offering undergraduate courses. Deans and Provost will talk about this emerging practice and it’s impact on students.
* Discussion: Nature of Life will be offered as a two-year program effective Fall 2014. A .5 credit, required course will be offered each semester during the first two years of an NHS student’s academic career. Accommodations will be needed for NAS students who transfer in their sophomore year and students who study abroad. Parts of Biol 2001 will be incorporated into the sophomore NOL classes, Biol 2905 and 2906 but students will not be able to take Biol 2001 in lieu of Biology 2905 and 2906.
* 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 will 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 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: Plan to develop a Department of Biology Teaching and Learning. This new department would house the Biology major/minor, first year programs (NOL), K-12 Outreach, Graduate Education in STEM education. More details to follow when the Provost approves of the idea.
* Discussion. New Life Sciences Chemistry series of courses. New courses will be taught differently and geared towards life sciences. Paul Siliciano is working with the Chemistry department to create this new course sequence.
* Policy: Students who are on academic probation can’t register for Directed Research except by petition.
* Policy: Students need prior experience working in a lab before being taking Directed Research WI. If lacking this experience, they will be required to petition to take the WI version of Directed Research. This does not apply to Directed Studies WI.
* Presentation: Pre-Health Initiatives. According to the 2013 Freshman Experience Survey, 87% of students were interested in health professions. Lisa Novack advises students interested in the health sciences. CBS has over a 54% acceptance rate into medical school.
* Presentation: BS/MPH program. Sue Wick and Betsy Wattenberg described a new five year program (4/1) partnered with Environmental Health Sciences that will enroll 10-15 students per year effective Fall 2015. Public Health is looking for partners from amongst CBS, CFANS, CLA (BSE Major). Additional meetings will be held to review courses and advising issues, etc.