COMMITTEE: Educational Policies and Planning

MEETING DATE: Friday, December 8, 2017

PERSON PRESIDING: Don Chaney

REGULAR MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Paige Averett, Mark Bowler, Don Chaney, John Collins, Bryna Coonin, Michael Duffy, Donna Kain, Christy Walcott

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: George Bailey, Lori Flint, Ruth Little, Tom McConnell, Leslie Pagliari

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Karen Summey, Venkat Gudivada

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ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Approval of November 10, 2017 EPPC meeting minutes

Action Taken: The committee agreed to strike the word “unanimous” in reference to its approval of the establishment of the Department of Coastal Studies. This reflected the concern of committee members about the possibility that taking grant makers out of their home departments to join the Coastal Studies Institute would be detrimental to those departments. The amended minutes were approved.

Assigned additional duties to: N/A

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Agenda Item: Proposal to discontinue the BA in Computer Science
Curriculog Files:  https://ecu.curriculog.com/proposal:1342/form
Unit: Department of Computer Science
Representative: Venkat N. Gudivada

Discussion: Professor Gudivada, Chair of the Department of Computer Science, discussed the justification for requesting the discontinuation of the BA in Computer Science. He recognized that the Department of Computer Science currently offers two undergraduate degrees in computing: BA in Computer Science and BS in Computer Science. The BA program, the older of the two, was developed to produce graduates who are well versed in both computing and non-computing areas. BA degree requirements include 12 semester hours of foreign language study and a minor (a minimum of 24 semester hours). He pointed out that there was not enough space in the BA curriculum for students to acquire adequate computing knowledge and practice with software tools and processes, putting BA majors at a disadvantage, compared with BS students, in securing employment with mainstream computing technology companies. Students are aware of this difficulty for BA graduates to compete in the industry, as corroborated by a number of sources including BA student exit surveys and interviews, and Computer Science academic advisor interactions with BA students.

Professor Collins stated that this justification does not account for the importance of having well-rounded students. He also asked if the department has considered reducing the minor to 18 credit hours. Professor Gudivada responded that the rigor of the program required the additional specialized courses for minors. Computing and math requirements of the BA, for example, are not as rigorous as the corresponding requirements for the BS degree which requires 15 semester hours of math instead of 6 (BA program requirement). Department of Computer Science faculty unanimously voted to discontinue the BA in computer science program. The courses required to meet the BA degree requirements will be offered to enable
graduation of the students who are already in the program. The discontinuation of the BA program does not necessitate the reassignment of any faculty, staff and EHRA non-faculty.

**Action Taken:** The motion to approve the discontinuation of the B.A. in Computer Science was unanimously passed.

**Assigned additional duties to:** N/A

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS/ UPDATES**

Dr. Flint, Director of Planning and Accreditation, reported that an interdisciplinary workgroup may start up to determine the feasibility of degree-seeking students earning the multidisciplinary entrepreneurship certificate in the Miller School of Entrepreneurship, at the College of Business. The Collaborative Team for Academic Program Development is looking into this. Professor Kain asked if this review of the certificate could possibly be referred to a faculty senate committee for its discussion. If the faculty senate workgroup found such an option desirable, university regulations regarding certificates would need to be examined, and potentially, changed to permit students to take standalone certificates regardless of degree-seeking status.

Dr. Flint reported that she has returned from the SACS Conference, where members voted on new SACS principles, available on the SACSCOC website. She stated that the QEP is being changed to better meet members' needs. It will be more tied to our strategic plan, and will no longer need its own funding stream. Professors Duffy and Kain asked if the University Writing Portfolio would be maintained, since this was a valuable platform for preserving examples of successful student writing. Kain noted that the University of Central Florida is an example of a university with a successful Writing Portfolio Program. Dr. Flint stated that we have one more year with the current QEP, and then will need to consider future directions. As for the sustainability of our current Writing Portfolio Program, that will need to be determined by university leadership and other stakeholders. Finally, the next QEP Impact Report is due in March 2019, as part of our SACS fifth year interim report.

**Progress of Academic Program Reviews:**

a. Professor Bowler reported that the Department of Chemistry will choose its external reviewers on Monday. He also reported that the external reviewers for the Department of Nutrition Science have completed their site review, and the department is waiting for the reviewers' response.

b. Professor Duffy reported that the School of Communication is currently looking at the complete list of possible external reviewers.

c. Professor Kain reported that the Department of Math recently completed the meeting for its final report.

**NEXT MEETING:** Friday, January 12, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. in 142 Rawl Annex.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Duffy