COMMITTEE: Educational Policies and Planning

MEETING DATE: Friday, March 17, 2017

PERSON PRESIDING: Don Chaney

REGULAR MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Mark Bowler, Bryna Coonin, Don Chaney, Kanchan Das, Michael Duffy, Donna Kain, Christy Walcott

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Karen Summey, Lori Lee, Cheryl Johnson, Susannah Berry, Ron Preston, Sandra Warren, Kristen Cuthrell, John Collins, Rachel Copeland

ACTIONS OF MEETING

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

Discussion: None

Action Taken: Approved as written

Assigned additional duties to: N/A


Unit: Department of Interdisciplinary Professions

Representative: Lori Flint

Discussion: Dr. Flint explained that the two undergraduate programs in Business Education and Marketing Education and Information Technologies Education as well as the Business Education and Marketing Education concentrations in the MAEd in Career and Technical Education were being discontinued in the Department of Interdisciplinary Professions. The closing was based on the Provost’s recommendation. Flint recognized that the programs represented high needs areas although the programs have low enrollments. In December 2016, the Department of Interdisciplinary Professions voted to discontinue delivery of the undergraduate program, and admission to the degree programs closed on March 2, 2016. Professor Ivan Wallace is teaching remaining courses. The two remaining students in the MAT program will graduate in May 2017. The Business Education and Marketing Education concentrations in the MAEd in Career and Technical Education effective discontinuation date was June 2016, and a teach-out plan has been developed to assist the four students enrolled in this program. Professor Walcott pointed out that this discontinuation was initiated from above and not within the program. The Department’s response to the recommendation of closure was not addressed by the Provost’s office.

Action Taken: Motion to approve this request to discontinue these BSBE degrees, as well as MAT and MAEd concentration areas was passed unanimously.
Discussion: Professor Cheryl Johnson discussed the progress of this discontinuation, noting that her faculty were initially disappointed at the decision, and found it hard to stop teaching. The department was under low enrollment again and had to complete another report. The department found consolation in the fact that the program finished on a high. The HDFS graduate faculty voted on and approved this discontinuation on May 2, 2016, and it was approved by the HHP Graduate Faculty on December 7, 2016. Faculty advisors are working with current students to map out their plan of study to graduation in order to assist them in completing their course work with the teach-out plan by the 2018-2019 academic year. There is a current lack of demand for these programs in North Carolina. Dr. Flint noted that these programs were high needs areas, especially in rural communities. The graduates were grabbed at the recent career fair. There is presently a great increase in undergraduate enrollment in this area and the department has increased its online offerings. Professor Johnson stated that her department is considering collaborating with Curriculum Instruction in the College of Business, and starting back up in the near future.

Action Taken: Motion to approve this request to discontinue an MAEd degree program was passed unanimously.

Assigned additional duties: N/A

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Agenda Item: Discontinuation of a degree: BS in Child Life
Unit: Department of Human Development and Family Science
Representative: Sharon Ballard and Susan McGhee

Discussion: Professor Susannah Berry pointed out that the BS in Child Life is a well-performing degree. Since the Child Life Council has decided to require a graduate degree by 2021 for those interested in sitting for the Child Life Certification exam, the department has made the decision to discontinue Child Life as a stand-alone program. The HDFS Faculty voted and approved this discontinuation in October 2014. Their last class, Introduction to Child Life, will be offered in spring 2018. Future curriculum requests will propose providing coursework as an area of emphasis in their related Bachelor of Science Family and Community Services. Currently the Department has a masters’ degree with a Child Life specialization, and plans to offer a graduate certificate in the near future. The Department has enrolled 7 to 9 Child Life students at the graduate level. They can increase enrollment by 3 to 5, but have to be careful not to saturate a specialized market.

Action Taken: Motion to approve this request to discontinue a BS degree program was passed unanimously.

Assigned additional duties: N/A

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Agenda Item: Revision of a degree title: MAEd Instructional Technology Education to MAEd Instructional Technology
Unit: Department of Mathematics, Science and Instructional Technology Education
Representative: Ron Preston
Discussion: Professor Preston stated that the requested degree title revision reflects the mission of his department. Instructional Technology is the name of the discipline whereas the present title “Instructional Technology Education” causes confusion and effectively misrepresents the degree since there exists a separate discipline titled “Technology Education.” Preston also noted that the present program title very likely deters potential program applicants who desire a degree in instructional technology.

Action Taken: Motion to approve this request for program title revision was passed unanimously

Assigned additional duties: N/A

Agenda Item: Proposal of a new minor: Disability Studies
Unit: Department of Special Education, Foundations and Research
Representative: Sandra Warren

Discussion: Professor Warren pointed out that the proposal for the new minor in Disability Studies will prepare a variety of professionals to interact with and provide services and support for children and adults with disabilities. These professionals will work in a variety of disciplines, including allied health sciences, criminal justice, human development, psychology, recreation and leisure, rehabilitation, and sociology. The Department surveyed program chairs across campus and received a positive response for their proposed minor. The proposed minor will be 18 semester hours and include 11 semester hours of required course work and 7 hours of elective course work. Students completing this minor will demonstrate and apply knowledge in a wide range of competencies in disability studies. Since the passage of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act, there has been an increasing array of professions which play a part in the lives of individuals with disabilities and calls for the need for members of these professions to be knowledgeable of and skilled in evidence-based practices to provide support to and interact with these individuals.

Action Taken: Motion to approve this request for a new minor was passed unanimously.

Assigned additional duties: N/A

Agenda Item: Revision of an existing degree: BS Elementary Education
Unit: Department of Elementary Education and Middle Grades Education
Representative: Kristen Cuthrell

Discussion: Professor Cuthrell explained how the Department reviewed its program and recognized a lack in math content among students taking exams. Math test scores of graduates were below state university means. New accreditation standards have also come out (new regulations at the UNC System level). We are finding that students are getting more supervision in early classes. The revision includes a reduction in the overall minimum credit hour requirements, from 126 to 125 semester hours for this degree. There will be a reduction of 10 semester hours in deletions, including HLTH 3244, KINE 3545, a cognate and an elective; and 9 semester hours in additions, including (ELEM 3600, ELEM 4325, ELEM 4400, ELEM 4500, and MATE 2129. The proposed revisions in the Elementary Education Bachelor of Science degree will have no budgetary impact on the Department of Elementary Education and Middle Grade Education. Adjusting the number of students in each section and redistribution of teaching loads will allow for adequate coverage to deliver the courses under the newly configured curriculum.

Action Taken: Motion to approve this request to revise an existing degree was passed unanimously
Assigned additional duties: N/A

Agenda Item: Proposal of a new concentration: Pre-Law in the BA in Philosophy
Unit: Department of Philosophy and Religions Studies
Representative: John Collins

Discussion: Professor Collins discussed the development of the proposal of a new optional pre-law concentration within the Philosophy major. The proposal addresses a Harriot College initiative to broaden the recognition of curriculum and degree options of students who intend to attend law school after earning a BA or BS. Philosophy majors and members of ECU’s Pre-Law Society were also surveyed which resulted in the recognition of substantial University interest in a pre-law concentration. The Department hopes to attract some pre-law students from across the campus. Furthermore, the addition of this concentration will give the students who are already taking these courses recognition on their transcripts that they have completed a pre-law curriculum (there being no pre-law major or minor at ECU) and guidance. It will also encourage them to make their pre-law curriculum more interdisciplinary. Philosophy majors perform near the top of the LSAT. There will be no change in the overall credit hour requirement (120) nor in the courses required for the degree. This revision will use existing resources and does not involve the creation of new courses. No redistribution of teaching assignments is anticipated.

Action Taken: Motion to approve this request for a new BA concentration was passed unanimously.

Assigned Additional Duties: N/A

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Agenda Item: Discontinuation of a concentration: Organ Performance and Piano Pedagogy in the BM in Music
Unit: School of Music
Representative: Rachel Copeland

Discussion: Professor Copeland stated that in 2012 these two low-enrollment concentrations were recommended for discontinuation. The School of Music faculty have voted and approved the package to discontinue this BM concentration along with additional course descriptions and program standards in April 2015 and April 2016 meetings.

Action Taken: Motion to approve this request for discontinuation of a BM degree concentration was passed unanimously.

Additional Duties Assigned: N/A

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ANNOUNCEMENTS/ UPDATES:

a. Academic Program Review Updates:

   Professor Cain announced that the Math Department Review is getting a schedule.

   Professor Walcott announced that the English Department Self-Study has been looked at by the Internal Review Committee; it is anticipated that it will soon go to external reviewers.
b. Program Discontinuation and Consolidation Update:

Dr. Flint announced that four academic programs are closing and one program is being consolidated.

c. Curriculog News:

Dr. Flint recognized that Curriculog is ready to sign off.

Professors Cain and Bowler volunteered to be super-users.

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING:** Friday, April 7, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. in 142 Rawl Annex.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Duffy