COMMITTEE: Educational Policies and Planning

MEETING DATE: Friday, February 9, 2018

PERSON PRESIDING: Mark Bowler

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

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Sophia Armstrong, George Bailey, Rita Reaves

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Tarek Abdel-Salam, Katie Flanagan, Venkat Gudivada, Michael Harris, Lori Lee, Karen Summey, Elizabeth Swaggerty

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Approval of February 9, 2018 EPPC meeting minutes
Action Taken: Motion to approve the minutes was passed.

Assigned additional duties to: N/A

Agenda Item: Request to Deliver Online: MAEd in Curriculum and Instruction (English and History Education) 
Curriculog Files: https://ecu.curriculog.com/proposal:1279/form
Unit: Department of Literacy Studies, English Education and History Education, College of Education
Representative: Elizabeth Swaggerty

Discussion: Professor Swaggerty stated that she has created this online curriculum and coordinated this request with the intention of shifting to an online degree program. The MAEd in Curriculum and Instruction was created when two prior degrees, the MAEd in History Education and the MAEd in English were consolidated. Both of those degrees suffered from low enrollment. Recent polling data conducted by graduate Curriculum and Instruction faculty of potential future MAEd students in eastern North Carolina revealed that if our degree could be offered either fully or with a majority of classes online, program enrollment in both concentrations would increase significantly. Students are taking more of their coursework online. Many potential students live too far from the ECU campus to attend regular face-to-face classes. The new Curriculum and Instruction MAEd online designation also opens the door for other concentrations to be added. It will promote the development of a more diverse candidate population and create more opportunities to pursue interdisciplinary programs while at the same time increasing student enrollment. Swaggerty pointed out that the online program will put our MAEd in Curriculum and Instruction on databases for online courses. The online MAEd degree will not affect current curriculum and will not impact faculty resources.

Action Taken: The motion to approve the request to deliver the MAEd in Curriculum and Instruction online was passed unanimously.

Agenda Item: Request to Discontinue: BS in Athletic Training
Curriculog Files: https://ecu.curriculog.com/proposal:2037/form
Unit: Department of Health Education and Promotion, College of Health and Human Performance
Representative: Katie Flanagan

Discussion: Professor Flanagan stated that the baccalaureate program is being phased out in response to the discipline’s accrediting body establishing the MS degree as the required program for licensure.

Action Taken: The motion to approve the request to discontinue the existing BS degree in Athletic Training was passed unanimously.

Agenda Item: Request to Establish: 4C Certificate in Entrepreneurship
Curriculog Files: https://ecu.curriculog.com/proposal:1311/form
Unit: Miller School of Entrepreneurship, College of Business
Representative: Michael Harris

Discussion: Professor Harris stated that the 4C Certificate in Entrepreneurship was established 3 years ago. The Entrepreneurship Certificate is being moved from the Department of Management to reside in the Miller School. The faculty from the Department of Management unanimously approved releasing the courses in the Entrepreneurship Certificate and Entrepreneurship Small Business Management concentration to the Miller School of Entrepreneurship at the opening Fall 2017 meeting. The Entrepreneurship Certificate strategically aligns with the Miller School, and this move will allow for better marketing and coordination of the program. All accreditation standards will remain in place as the Miller School falls under the purview of the accrediting body, the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). We wanted to create a new degree and revise some existing courses, being changed from MGMT (Management prefix) to ENTR (entrepreneurship prefix). This will impact MGMT 3500 and MGMT 4500 in the certificate program. If approved, these courses will change to ENTR 3500 and ENTR 4500 respectively. The School will have a degree and a certificate. The request to plan the BS degree program was approved by the faculty senate and is on its way to Academic Council.

Action Taken: The motion to approve the request to establish the 4C Certificate in Entrepreneurship was passed unanimously.

Agenda Item: Request to increase program hours (1 SH from 99 to 100): MS in Physician Assistant
Curriculog Files: https://ecu.curriculog.com/proposal:1042/form
Unit: Department of Physician Assistant Studies, College of Allied Health Sciences

Discussion: Professor Bowler pointed out that everything has been approved except the additional hour, requested here, for the MS in Physician Assistant. The graduate Physician Assistant faculty have voted and approved revising the Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies curriculum. This process consists of deleting a 4 credit one semester Pharmacology and Pharmacotherapeutics course that is currently offered in Spring Semester. The proposed curriculum will include a 1 credit course offered in the Fall, 3 credit course offered in Spring and a 1 credit course offered in summer for a total of 5 credits. This will increase the total credits for the PA Program from 99 to 100 SCH.

Action Taken: The motion to approve the request to increase the program requirement for the MS in Physician Assistant from 99 to 100 semester hours was passed unanimously.

Agenda Item: Request to Establish: MS in Mechanical Engineering
Curriculog Files: https://ecu.curriculog.com/proposal:1082/form
Unit: Department of Engineering, College of Engineering and Technology
Representative: Tarek Abdel-Salam
Discussion: Professor Abdel-Salam stated that the Department of Engineering is growing. Initially the department focused on graduate education, and is presently changing direction, emphasizing research. More than half the faculty specialize in mechanical engineering. Although there are 6 concentrations, mechanical engineering is the largest. Retaining and recruiting faculty is an important consideration, and attracting and retaining researchers is a major objective of the proposed MS in Mechanical Engineering. The proposed degree will be a two-year program with a minimum of 32 semester hours of coursework and a thesis. Students will not be productive until the summer of the first year. Approximately 14 semester hours of the coursework will come from the Department of Engineering, with an additional 6 semester hours of thesis credit and additional courses from the Departments of Mathematics, Physics, Biology, Biostatistics, and other disciplines as required to support the interests and research of individual students and faculty. The PhD is on the horizon for us, but not in the near future.

Professor Kain asked if this will be a practical degree, required for going out to work and find employment in industry. Abdel-Salam noted that the department is proposing energy materials and biomaterials, emphasizing the health science programs in a range of key university areas of the School of Dental Medicine and other ECU colleges. The focus of the program is to prepare students who are skilled in the learning and discovery process that integrates engineering and life sciences for the advancement of human health. Our current faculty have interest in coastal research. We are hiring at present, and need an additional 1.5 positions. More candidates in our job search are in the field of biomaterials. We are currently adding new courses, both general and elective ones.

Action Taken: The motion to approve the request to establish an MS in Mechanical Engineering was passed unanimously.

Agenda Item: Request to Establish: BS in Software Engineering
Curriculog Files: https://ecu.curriculog.com/proposal:1315/form
Unit: Department of Computer Science, College of Engineering and Technology
Representative: Venkat Gudivada
Discussion: Professor Gudivada recognized that the Computer Science Department has two undergraduate programs. Computer Science students have felt that the BA degree did not offer the same expertise as the more recent BS degree nor truly reflect computer science jobs. The BS in software engineering was proposed years ago but did not get support. It is a relevant program, current to industry needs. The department has talked with stakeholders about developing a program that is rigorous, up to date, and directed to software. An Industry Advisory Board will steer the initial program development and subsequent efforts to keep the curriculum relevant. Currently, IBM, SAS, Nvidia, Red Hat, BB&T, Fidelity, CreditSuisse, and Sequence are involved in designing the initial curriculum. The program is designed for accreditation by the Engineering Accreditation Commission (EAC) of ABET. Special features of the program include well-balanced coverage of theory and practice and a summer internship experience will be encouraged.

Action Taken: The motion to approve the request to establish a BS in Software Engineering in the Department of Computer Science was passed unanimously.

Agenda Item: Request to Establish: MS in Data Science
Curriculog Files: https://ecu.curriculog.com/proposal:1031/form
Unit: Department of Computer Science, College of Engineering and Technology
Representative: Venkat Gudivada
Discussion: Professor Gudivada explained that data science came into fashion in 2013. Several companies in the 1990s thought about this discipline. The Computer Science Department performed a market analysis of this projected program. The Provost recommended that it be interdisciplinary, and the program has
connections with health. The new program is interdisciplinary, bringing together the Computer Science, Health Services and Information Management, Mathematics, and Biostatistics departments. There is common interest across disciplines in research proposals as well as good funding prospects. The department has two other master’s degree programs—an MS in Software Energy that enrolls 50 students but does not have enough faculty for teaching and program marketing. An MS in Computer Science enrolls 25 students, that we confidently feel will grow in enrollment. We need more faculty, and have requested 4 new faculty. We might be getting new faculty through ECU Internal Allocations. The Academic Council has committed to allocating additional faculty. Big Data Clusters are one resource, and we are more oriented toward the sciences than business, health or biostatistics. We will have 1 new faculty in the first year, 1 additional faculty in the second years. This development will be difficult without the additional new faculty. Professor Kain asked if the term “engineering” over those of developer or programmer made a difference? Gudivada pointed out that the term “engineer” connotes problem solving and maintainability. Ms. Armstrong suggested that the term “software” would be attractive to industry. The department also encourage Pitt Community College students to start at ECU. In response to Kain’s query about a foreign language requirement, Gudivada noted that a foreign language can be added to the major, although at present there is no such requirement.

Dr. Reaves commended Gudivada for his strong initiatives in computer science program development.

Action Taken: The motion to approve the request to establish an MS degree program in Date Science was passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ UPDATES

I. Professor Bowler distributed a letter from Dr. Paul Gemperline, entitled Report on the Status of ECU’s Request to Establish a Joint PhD in Integrative Coastal and Marine Sciences with UNCW. In the letter, Dr. Gemperline stated his desire to inform EPPC of the recommendation of Academic Affairs and the Graduate School to withdraw from the plan to establish a joint PhD between ECU and UNC Wilmington in Integrative Coastal and Marine Sciences, following the January 31, 2018 meeting of Drs. Gemperline and Michelson with the faculty affiliated with the Coastal Resource Management PhD program. A majority of tenured faculty at the meeting voted electronically to withdraw the joint PhD proposal. Many of the faculty would like to maintain tighter control over the new curriculum, and see a need to focus efforts on leveraging our presence in the new UNC facility at the Coastal Studies Institute in Manteo. A smaller group of the faculty is developing the appropriate curriculum revision documents, which will be submitted through the usual campus approval processes in due course.

II. Professor Bailey distributed a handout from the ECU SACS Educational Programs and Policies Subcommittee, entitled Recommendation to the Faculty Senate Educational Policies and Planning Committee from the ECU SACS 5th Year Report addressing SACS Requirement 10.7 (Policies for Awarding Credit). He stated that the original document was out of date. The subcommittee added to it, as the reference to independent studies, identified in bold type. Changing ECU policy requires the approval of the Faculty Senate and the Chancellor. The subcommittee is asking that EPPC recommend this revision to the Senate. The subcommittee looked at policies in other states and universities, trying to make ours succinct, and show how it fits into curriculum development. The outdated language under “Federal definition” is the Fed’s language, not ECU’s, so that part of the policy cannot be revised. The Feds continue to review their definition, but they have not revised it since 2011. Although the University’s policy for awarding credit passed the SACS review in 2013, ECU has expanded how courses are taught.

Professor Kain announced two edits for the subcommittee: first, use the word “number” instead of “amount” under 4. Procedure for Determining Credit Hours, in the second line of the first paragraph. Second, use words “Undergraduate Curriculum” instead of University Curriculum in the second paragraph, the first line, of the same section of the document.
NEXT MEETING: Friday, March 16, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. in 142 Rawl Annex.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Duffy