Course & Curriculum Minutes, 9/8/11

In attendance:
Ruth Buskirk (UTeach/Mol. BIO)
Ted Odell (M)
Andy Ellington (BCH)
Norma Fowler (Integrative BIO)
Wayne Gardner (MNS)
Nancy Hazen-Swann (HE)
Greg Shields (AST)
Sacha Kopp (chair)
Stan Roux (BIO)
Nigel Atkinson (Neuro BIO)
Bruce Porter (CS)
Phil Morrison (PHY)

Guests: Henry Bose (BIO); Rick Aldrich (Neuro BIO); Dean Appling (BCH); Karen Browning (BCH); Paula Foy (BCH); Rick Russell (BCH); Tiffany Grady (CS)

Dean’s Office: Cathy Stacy, Judith Quinney

Absent: John Stanton (CH)

I. Course Inventory – All requests to change the course inventory were approved by the committee.

NSC 209P
BIO 366M/NEU 366M
BIO 366N/NEU 366N
CH 339K
CH 339J/SSB 339J

CH 364C/SSB 364C
SSB 339Q

- Kim will work with the departments to ensure all changes to the course inventory are submitted via the Registrar’s online system by the November 1 deadline.

II. Proposed legislative addition of the Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience, presented by Rick Aldrich.

The committee is supportive of the interdisciplinary aspects of the neuroscience degree proposal. Approved by the committee with the following edits:

- In req 3, reinstate PHY 317K, 117M, 317L, 117N sequence as a choice.
- In req 6a, add a lower-division course number for BIO 381K, then add the lower-division course to 6a.
• In 6d, remove M 362K (it's already an option in req 2). Committee adopted M 358K or 378K to replace M 362K. There may be issues with prerequisites: M 358K and 378K require M 362K. In addition, there are course inventory statements that "M 358K and SSC 321 may not both be counted."

• In req 9, change the requirement referenced as req 10 to req 11 (typo).

Edits are complete as requested, with a notation that students who chose SSC 321 may not also count M 358K in req 6d.

Kim will work with Rick Aldrich and Biology representative to create a new CI for a lower-division version of BIO 381P, to be sent out on a no-protest basis. Once approved, make edit in B.

The dean's office still needs the draft for creating a new degree plan from Neuroscience (Moon Draper).

III. Proposed legislative change to the B.S. Biochemistry, Option I, degree, presented by Andy Ellington.

The Option I plan includes a requirement for 9 hours of coursework from Natural Sciences, Engineering, and the Jackson School of Geological Sciences. The academic reason for this requirement is no longer relevant. The department wants to create more flexibility for students in terms of electives. In addition, the legislative changes to Option I and II require changes to the Prescribed Work Common to All Options.

Approved by the committee.

IV. Proposed legislative changes to the B.S. Biochemistry, Option II, degree, presented by Andy Ellington.

The Option II plan no longer provides the diverse background needed for working biochemists. The committee is supportive of the interdisciplinary aspect of the systems and synthetic biology updates to the Option II plan. The degree option name also changed to reflect its new focus. In addition, the legislative changes to Option I and II require changes to the Prescribed Work Common to All Options.

Approved by the committee with a minor edit:

• In req 13, Bruce Porter of Computer Science suggested that the requirement allow for two separate tracks, one containing Elements of Computing courses and one containing computer science major courses.

Bruce agreed to provide guidance to Andy about the major courses after verifying registration access by systems and synthetic biology majors.

Andy approved rewriting the requirement for students to choose an Elements or a major-level sequence in computer science.

Edits are complete.
After the meeting ended, Paula pointed out that lab-oriented courses that count toward specific "lab" requirements are indicated by an asterisk in the catalog. She suggests the following edits:

- BS in Biochemistry, Option II: Under req 9, BIO 126L, 331, and 360K should have asterisks. Under req 10, CH 128L, 153K, 455, 369L, and 369T should have asterisks.

**Andy approved edits to place asterisks in requirement 9 and 10 to indicate lab courses. Edits are complete.**

IV. Proposed new Field of Study, presented by Andy Ellington

The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry presented a new field of study, Systems and Synthetic Biology, to be housed in the Center for Systems and Synthetic Biology. The new field of study will be abbreviated as SSB. The field of study will initially have only undergraduate courses. The courses are in the subject of systems biology, which is the integrative, quantitative treatment of a variety of data, including data from biochemistry, cell biology, genomics, and proteomics. The establishment of a new field of study lays the groundwork for a possible, future, separate degree plan in Systems and Synthetic Biology.

Approved by the committee.

V. Admission-to-Major requirements for Computer Science

The number of students wanting to major in computer science is on the rise. The department finds the admission process too vague. It does not provide enough information for students taking preparatory coursework to gauge their potential for admission. The proposal raises the minimum grades in the basic sequence courses to C, and requires the second calculus course for admission consideration. In addition, students must be in good academic standing and have a 2.5 grade point average of the four basic sequence courses taken in residence to apply.

Approved by the committee with a minor edit:

- In the last paragraph, the committee recommended and the representative approved striking the next to last suggested sentence as redundant.

**Edit is complete.**

VI. COLA/CNS proposal to increase the upper-division hours required on the BA to 39

The committee acknowledges concerns that BA majors in some of the departments may be placed in a position of taking coursework beyond the 120 minimum if the proposal is passed. The only method for preventing this from occurring is to require students to choose some upper-division coursework as part of the core curriculum. Given the lack of preparation, this is not a good option for Natural Sciences majors.

- The committee approved a motion for Sacha Kopp to convey that Natural Sciences does not support an increase in the upper-division hours on the BA degree.
Cathy will work with Sacha and Richard Flores to ensure that the Liberal Arts proposal being considered by CUDPR is amended to indicate that the College of Natural Sciences is an impacted college, and that the college does not approve the increase in upper-division hours to the BA.

Sacha and Richard will discuss potential alternatives to this issue.

VII. Core courses counted toward major or college

The committee reviewed the compilation of departmental responses to the questionnaire sent by the Dean's Office.

Approved by the committee with the following edits:

• M 310P will contain the statement: May not be counted toward the BA Math and BS Math.

• BIO 301M, 309D, and 309F will contain this statement: May not be counted toward a degree in CNS except for the BS in HDFS.

• BIO 301E, biology course for Plan II majors, will contain this statement: May not be counted toward the BA BIO and the BS BIO.

Edits are complete. Kim will contact course inventory departmental representatives to request changes to their courses.

This concludes the Course and Curriculum committee meetings for the Fall 2011 semester. The committee will reconvene in Spring 2011.