

# Minutes of the Meeting of the College Curriculum Committee

## December 8, 2011

**Members Present:** Chris Janelle (Presiding), Joslyn Ahlgren, Bertha Cato, Stephen Holland, Morgan Pigg, Sadie Sanders, Kelli Brown.

**Guests:** DeEtta Rhodes

### 1. Opening remarks – Dr. Janelle

Thanks to committee members for being available to meet on a reading day, and to DeEtta for providing a hard copy of the agenda and supporting documents.

### 2. APK proposed curriculum changes – Dr. Ahlgren

- a. Allow AEB 2014 (Economic Issues, Food, and You) as an alternative to ECO 2023 (Principles of Microeconomics) for Fitness Wellness (FW) majors.

**Justification:** This course is accepted as equivalent for ECO2023 by the College of Business to fulfill the pre-requisite to MAR3023 and MAN3025. Upon examination of both of course descriptions, all APK UCC members concluded that either course would service our FW students. The previous APK academic advisor was allowing this substitution for FW students not interested in pursuing a business minor. ECO 2023 is required for a minor in business.

- b. Change approved electives in FW recommended plan semester 2 from 5 to 5-6

**Justification:** AEB 2014 is a 3-credit course, whereas ECO 2023 is a 4-credit course.

Accordingly, the recommended amount of approved elective credits for that semester will vary depending on which course the student selects. If they choose to take AEB 2014, they will need to take 6 elective credits. If they choose to take ECO 2023, they will need to take 5 elective credits.

- c. Remove HSA 3111 (US Healthcare System) from the FW track

**Justification:** This removal was approved at the previous CCC meeting for the Exercise Physiology track only. It was realized that this course is also listed as an approved elective for the FW track

Committee inquired if the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs) had been contacted. This was not the case so the request was made that the instructor be contacted via email and Dr. Brown copied so that she can then follow up with the Associate Dean in CALs.

Committee indicated that TRSM faculty had voted down equivalency as they felt it was not equivalent.

Committee noted that the semester two electives recommend SPC2608 or AEE3030c to majors. It was also noted that if APK, or any department, was interested in a major/topic specific writing course that this was now available. Examples of this are Writing for Health Professions or Writing for Research. The APK curriculum committee is planning a full review of the Exercise Physiology and Fitness/Wellness curriculums in the Spring and will include this in the discussion.

Motion to approve passed unanimously. Items will be forwarded to the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee for the January 2012 agenda if feedback from CALs is received.

### 3. HEB proposed curriculum changes – Dr. Sanders

- a. The Universal Tracking (UT) GPA for the Health Education and Behavior major was set at 2.8 when the curriculum updates took place in 2009. The courses included in the UT GPA include: PSY2012, MAC1105/1140/1147, STA2023, CHM1030/2045, APK2100c, MCB2000, MCB2000L, and APK2105c. When the HEB CIP code was changed to Community Health (51.2208) for the 2009-2010 academic year, the faculty did not anticipate issues with HEB majors earning the minimum grades needed in each UT course to maintain a 2.8 GPA. However, effective during the 2010-2011 academic year, the University of Florida made changes to the official University grading scale to include minus grades, as well as altered the values of the plus and minus grades. Unfortunately, our majors have experienced greater difficulty attaining and maintaining a 2.8 GPA in their UT coursework, than originally anticipated, due to the new University Grading Scale. As a result, the Faculty of the Department of Health Education and Behavior request that the HH-HEB undergraduate curriculum Universal Tracking GPA minimum be changed from 2.8 to 2.5. The faculty supports the adoption of a 2.5 UT GPA requirement, and believe it will afford our students a better chance of being successful in the Universal Tracking coursework.

Dr. Sanders indicated that this request was approved by HEB faculty on November 30<sup>th</sup>. It was noted that enrollment in the major has dropped 27% since 2010-11, and actually started declining during the 2009-10 academic year.

Committee inquired if the significant decrease in students is related to the UT GPA and the feeling by the Department is that this is indeed the case.

Committee inquired if a specific course(s) is impacting the student's ability to meet the required 2.8 UT GPA. It was also asked if specific courses awarding minus grades had been identified that might be impacting student UT GPAs. Neither has been explored by the Department. It was recommended that the advising office query the undergraduate database and gather data on:

- i. the number of students changing majors and what majors they are changing to
- ii. collect a sample of UT GPAs within the change of major population
- iii. review transcripts of this sample in an effort to identify UT courses which might be contributing to the UT GPA struggles.

It was also suggested that the syllabi of the UT courses be examined to see which ones are utilizing minus grades.

Committee indicated that CHM2045 may be contributing as there are pre-reqs necessary to complete this course (CHM1025 or passing score on the ChRA and concurrent enrollment in MAC1147 or MAC1114). It was also mentioned that CHM1025 would be closer in content to CHM1030 than CHM1030 is to CHM2045. As such, the committee asked if CHM2045 is required for the CIP code and it is. However, there is thought that better verbiage/communication of the option to substitute CHM1030 could occur.

Committee suggested removing the verbiage about minus grades from the memo before sending forward to UCC as it may have a negative impact.

The decision was made to table this agenda item until further data collection can be done. It was noted that if the Department wishes to move forward with this request, they would need to have it to UCC by February to include in the 2012-13 undergraduate catalog.

### 4. FYI Item: Study Abroad in Russia – Dr. Cato

The Department of Tourism, Recreation and Sport Management is offering a Practicum experience to students in Russia May 14-June 15, 2012. The course will provide students with cultural experience, language and service learning, and is being funded by a grant obtained by Dr. Stepchenkova. As a result, the only cost to students is 3 credits of tuition, some meals and personal expenses.

The committee inquired as to how many students were funded, and the response was 5. The committee inquired if there was a population of TRSM students with Russian language proficiency, and it was noted that TRSM is working in conjunction with the Russian Studies program and the College of Business to recruit students. Part of the selection process is an interview in Russian.

**5. Other items**

- a. The General Education Committee item has been placed on the December UCC agenda. The request is to make "What is the Good Life" a required Humanities course for all UF students. While this was approved by the General Education Committee, this will be the first time it is discussed at the University level.
- b. The 2012-13 catalog will be coming forward in January for edit. Department Undergraduate Coordinators will have approximately 30 days to review and submit.