A special meeting was called to have faculty discuss a modification to the general education program that was proposed at the faculty senate meeting on 11-10-2011.

I. Review Proposed General Education Program per Dr. Drew email 11-10-2011
II. Discussion
III. Vote
IV. Adjournment

Minutes;

Present: Dean Galardi, Judy Grorri, Jim Nevitt, Christy Hutchison, Mary Goebel-Lundholm, Sheri-Grotri-Ryan, Kelli Gardner, Elina Ibrayeva, Vijay Sharma, and Stacy Bliss-Fudge. Absent but providing commentary and voting via proxy Kelly Asmussen, Aaron Knape, and Brad Griffin. Alan Jackson was absent.

The School of Professional Studies assembled for a special meeting on Friday, 11-11-2011 at 9:30 a.m. as a result of an email communication from Dr. Drew, VPAA on Thursday, 11-10-2011.

Dr. Drew provided a suggested General Studies program (#1) which Faculty Senate had received from Arts and Sciences and were considering for adoption. Dr. Galardi subsequently emailed the proposal to all School of Professional Studies faculty members and requested a meeting.

The meeting commenced at 9:37 on Friday, 11-11-2011. Input and discussion on the revised proposal(#1) began. Faculty members were provided both the suggested revision (#1 attachment) and the prior general studies revision (#2 attachment) which the School of Professional Studies faculty had previously approved unanimously on 11-3-2011.

Faculty members discussed the new proposal (#1) and the prior proposal (#2). After discussion of the merits of both proposals, Dr. Stacy Bliss Fudge made a motion to reject the new proposal (#1) and request the prior proposal(#2) be approved as the General Studies program revision desired by faculty. The motion was seconded by Dr.Kelli Gardner. There was a unanimous vote in support of this motion. It should be noted Dr. Kelly Asmussen, Mr. Brad Griffin, and Mr. Aaron Knape voiced their support for the prior proposal (#2). Meeting adjourned at 9:59 a.m.

Next meeting- Thursday, November 17, 2011 3:30 p.m.
15 Collegiate Skills:

Communication: Eng 101 (or other English writing class, depending on student preparedness).
Note: Students with ACT of 26 or higher would be exempt from 101 but would be required to take 201 and another writing course.

Eng 201

Quantitative Reasoning: Math course, placed based on student preparedness (110, 112, 113, 120, or 225).
Note: Students with ACT of 26 or higher would be exempt from 110/112 but would be required to take a math course suited to improving their current mastery of mathematics.

Statistics

3 Technology: 1 course that focuses exclusively or nearly so on understanding the workings, uses, and/or consequences of technology.

6 Perspectives on Values, Thought, and Aesthetics:
2 courses chosen from Art, Literature, Music, Modern Languages, Philosophy, and Theater; courses must be in different areas.

13 Methods of Inquiry and Explanatory Schema:
Natural Sciences—2 courses, 1 of which must include a laboratory.
Biological Sciences—1 course.
Physical Sciences—1 course.
Social Sciences—2 courses, 1 of which must be from societal area.
Societal—History, Geography, Economics, or Political Science.
Behavioral—Anthropology, Psychology, or Sociology.

3 Interdisciplinary Studies: 1 course that focuses on interdisciplinary understanding of humans, human societies, and/or human endeavors.

Notes:
1. There is some support for requiring a course in history.
2. There is qualified support for the Technology requirement, assuming that the name and description are changed to allow more than computer courses.
3. There is support for including an Interdisciplinary Studies (so changed in name) requirement both for General Studies and as a graduation requirement.
4. There is support for requiring that IS courses have a global focus.
5. An idea was presented to require that IS courses receive their own prefix, to distinguish them from disciplinary courses and ensure that courses that satisfy the requirement for students have been reviewed and approved by faculty governance.
6. There is some support for including requirements to maximally use the credit hours allowed by Board policy.
7. There is unqualified support for ensuring that ALL students take 6 ch of math and 6 ch of writing. For those who are exempt from Math 110/112 and/or Eng 101, other courses in those areas would satisfy the credit hour requirement.
8. Given the new Gen Ed, there is concern that the current policy of double counting courses in the major and the Gen Ed will substantively harm the productivity of some A&S programs.
9. There is some support for splitting the Perspectives area into 2 sub-groups (as with the Soc. Sci.) and requiring 1 course from each area, but this proposal did not pass a vote (narrowly).
10. Regarding College 101:
   a. There is concern that increasing the credit hours in this course: 1) is inconsistent with the spirit and/or the language of board policy; 2) is unwarranted academically given the current content of the course; 3) would burden freshmen students without providing an equivalent return in value; 4) would burden faculty tasked with teaching the course; 5) would burden the scheduling of courses; and 6) would dilute the distinctiveness of the Honors Program by equating Coll 101 requirements with those of HP 101.
   b. A&S favors the change to 2 c.h. if: 1) the course sections are released from the current requirement of a common syllabus among sections so that discipline-specific knowledge can be added; 2) programs have the freedom to determine how to schedule and meet; and 3) all courses schedule and meet for the actual credit hour requirement, as per Board policy and long-standing practice.
Peru State College
General Studies Revision Proposal Status
October 11, 2011

Suggested Effort Parameters

- Advising documents must be complete by February 24, 2012.
- Approval process must be complete by January 27, 2012.
- Decision process must be complete by November 18, 2011.
- General Studies Program must range from 36 to 42 hours.
- Program prerequisites are allowable, but total credit hours for the General Studies Program plus prerequisite courses should not exceed the current general studies limit (47 hours), plus MAT 100 and ENG 100.
- Separate graduation requirements are allowed, but should be minimal, preferably upper division integrative courses.
- The typical student can complete a degree in 120 hours given the pattern of credits, meaning courses with less than or more than three hours should be carefully considered in combinations equaling three hours.
- Double counting policy for major and general studies still applies.
- Maintain and strengthen writing skills and critical thinking skills, per faculty and assessment-driven priorities.
- Program includes an interdisciplinary upper division capstone requirement focused on the development of critical thinking skills.
- Program should include a course in community development per the strategic plan.
- Use current goals, assessment and best practices information in decision efforts.
- Consider new cognate area descriptions and goal adjustment after discussions.
- Consider impact on BAS and BA degrees.
- Students must be able to complete entire program online.

Process To-Date

During 2010/11, the General Studies Program was evaluated by the A & C Committee in terms of constituency input and best practices. The evaluation included best practices research, peer program reviews, and consideration of constituency survey data regarding aspects of the program. The Committee prepared a report of its findings but did not make any curriculum recommendations as the program constraints associated with changes in policy 4140 were not finalized by the Nebraska State College System Board of Trustees. The Board revised policy 4140 during its June meeting. Dr. Davis prepared an individual proposal dated June 2011 that is based on his experience as A & C Committee Chair. Key aspects of Dr. Davis proposal:

- changes in the program categories from discipline to process characterizations;
- elimination of the global studies requirement;
- elimination of the health/activity requirement;
- addition of a multiculturalism requirement (which could replace global studies as a capstone requirement);
• specification of a philosophy requirement;
• silent on technology graduation requirement (not currently part of the General Studies Program).

Dr. Drew considered the changes proposed by Dr. Davis and, using his proposal as a starting point, made several suggestions. Dr. Davis' and Dr. Drew's proposals were considered by the A & C Committee on September 9, 2011. The committee recommended getting input on Dr. Drew's proposal from the deans. Changes from Dr. Davis' individual proposal, offered by Dr. Drew to A&C Committee:

• changed some of the phrasing and order of presentation;
• added a section on program prerequisites (using current or to be developed standards, the very well prepared would not need to take specific courses in Math, English, Speech, and Software Applications, in the last case replacing the current technology requirement);
• lowered the course level of Statistics to indicate the course should be taken easily;
• made COLL 101 a two credit course to reflect effort associated with course for students and faculty, provide more time for critical thinking skills focus, and exactly meet 120 hour limit (in conjunction with the 2 hour lab requirement in this proposal);
• added an interdisciplinary upper division requirement, similar to current global studies requirement, but with a focus on issues and resolution and broadened to include a community level course per the strategic plan;
• added a two course focus in the social science area to promote some depth of study (students won't step short in the middle of a discipline sequence).

Changes were made to the September 9, 2011 proposal to include feedback by the President and Deans on September 9, 2011. This proposal will be sent to the faculty for consideration in school meetings the week of September 12, 2011. Changes at this stage:

• changed some phrasing and added more descriptive information for each section;
• made clear MATH 110 would still count;
• added a course choice, ENG 309 in the communications area;
• added a separate human behavior science requirement.

Dr. Drew made changes based on additional Dean and faculty feedback to deal with concerns regarding recently proposed and current program flexibility, perceptions of too many prerequisites that would not be satisfied by many, and his own concern that the current means of meeting the technology requirement (i.e., by some students simply taking an internet course) was not sufficient given the needs of society. An alternative proposal was presented to the Academics and Curriculum Committee on October 7, 2011.

• The new cognate area titles used in the recent proposal were retained.
• Prerequisites were moved into the program, except for COLL 101, which is still proposed at two hours.
• Wellness, history, and literature specific requirements were removed from the current program and the two course social science sequence from the recent proposal was removed.
• HPER was proposed to count in social science.
• Other aspects of proposal were the same as the recent proposal.
Additional changes were made based on feedback from the Academics and Curriculum Committee. Another draft was presented at the October 21, 2011 meeting. This draft:

- created a separate technology area;
- made clear the lab component must be completed in the physical or biological science area;
- removed HPER courses as an option in the social science area;
- lowered the course number of BUS 301 Organizational Communications.

The committee strongly supported adding another course in social science (to six hours) but this change was not incorporated because further investigation indicated bringing the program to 48 hours would require special approval for some education programs to exceed 120 hours. Discussion was planned to consider if adding a course to the social studies area is a higher priority than retaining a three course requirement in the Values, Thought, and Aesthetics area.

During the October 11th meeting, the Academics & Curriculum Committee voted to forward a proposal to Faculty Senate, with the recommendation that they get further feedback from the Schools, Student Senate, and COLL 101 instructors (in the case of the recommended changes to COLL 101, which involve an increase in hours and making the course graded). The Committee discussed keeping the program to 40 hours to avoid a request to the Board for a special waiver for two education programs to be exempted from the 120 hour degree limit. The Committee agreed that simply taking an online course was not adequate preparation for working with or education in technology. The Committee made the following changes to the proposal under consideration:

- No new course substitutions would be allowed for ENG 201 and 202, although waivers based on ACT scores were retained.
- ENG 254 and 357 would not count for SPCH. The committee recommended enhancing the experiences in and controlling the course sizes for SPCH 152, BUS 2XX (now 301) would be the online course for communications.
- The Committee recommended moving three hours to Social Science from the Perspectives on Values, Thought, and Aesthetics section. The net effect, if viewed in terms of the current program categories, would be to require six hours in each of the categories (treating technology and speech together as an enhanced communications section), with an integrative course at the end.
- The proposal being forwarded to Senate keeps the integrative course within general studies and keeps the proposal to increase COLL 102 to two credit hours. The committee was split on both subjects. The Committee discussed other alternatives regarding where the one credit hour (getting degrees to an even 120 hours) could best be applied.

The Faculty Senate consideration process will likely begin at their meeting on October 20th.

Current Proposal Information

Collegiate Skills (15 hours)—same requirements as current program, but without Math 120 as a math option (course will no longer be required by the School of Professional Studies).

- Collegiate Communication — ENG 101 (valuable per current practice) and ENG 301, plus one presentation skills course: SPCH 152 or BUS 2XX (currently offered as 301)
Technology and its Application (3 hours)
One course identified as predominately engaging students in the use of technology for information management and/or communication. All CMS courses automatically satisfy this requirement.

Perspectives on Values, Thought, and Aesthetics (6 hours)
Two courses in Art, Literature, Music, Modern Languages, Philosophy, and/or Theater. The courses must be in different areas.

Methods of Inquiry and Explanatory Schema (minimum 13 hours)
One course each in the Physical and Biological Science areas, at least one of which must include a lab component. Two courses in the Social Science area.

- Physical Science
- Biological Science
- Social Science (Anthropology, Economics, Geography, History, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, course)

Integrated Learning and Decision Studies (3 hours)
One interdisciplinary upper division course covering:

- Community Issues and Development, or
- Global Issues and Development, or
- Comparative Culture Studies

Total hours: 40 hours, not including COLL 101. Limit is 42 hours. Current requirements are up to 47 hours plus 3 for those who take CMS 101.