MINUTES: School of Professional Studies Meeting, September 15, 2011, 3:30 p.m., TJM 301

PRESENT: Dean Galardi, Dr. Asmussen, Dr. Bliss Fudge, Ms. Edris, Dr. Gardner, Dr. Goebel-Lundholm, Mr. Griffin, Dr. Grotrian, Ms. Grotrian-Ryan, Dr. Ibrayeva, Dr. Hutchison, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Knape, Dr. Nevitt, Dr. Sharma

GUEST: Vice President Drew

I. Dean Galardi brought the meeting to order.

II. Minutes of the May 2, 2011 School of Professional Studies meeting were approved with a motion and second by Mr. Jackson and Dr. Goebel-Lundholm

Minutes of the August 19, 2011 School of Professional Studies meeting were approved with a motion and second by Dr. J. Grotrian and Mr. Jackson.

III. Dr. Ibrayeva, who represents the School of Professional Studies on the Academic and Curriculum Committee, introduced discussion on the General Studies Revision Proposal. Handouts of the proposal were provided to meeting participants. (Proposal is attached.)

The proposal addressed the following:
A. Suggested Effort Parameters
B. Process To-Date
C. Current Proposal Information
   1. Program Prerequisites
   2. Collegiate Skills
   3. Perspectives on Values, Thought, and Aesthetics
   4. Methods of Inquiry and Explanatory Schema
   5. Integrated Learning and Decision Studies

Dr. Drew indicated that this proposal addressed the concerns involving students with different levels of preparation – some can take more classes if levels of preparation are a concern. In the area of the social sciences, two classes will be required addressing the need for sequencing some of the classes. The MATH 340 will be changed to MATH 240. Taking the class earlier will allow students to be better prepared for classes that follow requiring quantitative reasoning. Health and Wellness requirements will be removed. First-aid will still be offered. Varsity Sports (HPER 190) can be used as electives.

Dr. Hutchison asked where Honors courses fit into the new General Studies program. Dr. Drew said there was no reason to change the way courses are used now. If the courses satisfy requirements, they can be used.

Dr. Hutchison asked how the new program would affect the Bachelor of Applied Science degree (BAS). Dr. Drew indicated that the School of Professional Studies should have that discussion. He asked if BAS graduates are as educated as they should be? Or are promotions foremost for those graduates?

Dr. Asmussen asked how the reduced hours would affect credit-hour production. Dr. Drew said that issue had been studied. While figures indicate a loss of about $50,000, it is thought that students will be taking more classes through changes in academic programs among other things.

Under Integrated Learning and Decision Studies Dr. Drew indicated that the Community Issues and development would not be service learning, but thinking about real problems and applying what has been learned. Classes such as Contemporary Social Problems (SOC 300) with a possible terminal experience included in order to do something real. Dr. Asmussen has been a leader in this type of class/education.

Under Global Issues and Development – courses will survey world issues, students will try to solve a problem on a global scale. And eventually – maybe not on day one – the students will travel to a place to see the problem addressed.

Under Comparative Culture Studies – courses will compare one culture with our culture as has been done in Dr. Asmussen’s Comparative Justice class. This would provide a semester of classroom experience followed by a trip to the area studied.
Dr. Drew related the development of an interdisciplinary course for students to take at the completion of the general studies portion of their study. It would reveal and enhance the breadth of the students’ education in multiple areas of study. Wayne State College offers a similar three-hour course; Chadron State College’s course is six hours.

Dr. Drew indicated that he still worried about students’ writing and communication abilities. An additional course at the 300 level (Creative Writing ENG 309) has been added – providing ENG 201, BUS 301 and ENG 309 for the students improvement of communication skills. Beginning Journalism (JOUR 234) will also be a choice.

Mr. Jackson indicated that he liked the proposal.

Dean Galardi asked department members to forward their comments to Ms. Edris. The comments will be combined into information forwarded to the Academic and Curriculum Committee. This will be an opportunity for input.

IV. The new computer lab has been funded at $50,000. It will have 32 stations. Dean Galardi asked faculty members to forward their comments and wants for the new computer lab to Mr. Griffin.

V. Dean Galardi asked for volunteers to serve on program review committees:
   Bachelor of Applied Science: Dr. Hutchison, Ms. Grotian-Ryan
   Accounting: Mr. Knape, Dr. Grotian
   Computer and Management Information Systems: Mr. Griffin, Mr. Jackson
   Human Performance and Systems Management: Ms. Grotian-Ryan
   Marketing: Mr. Jackson, Dr. Goebel-Lundholm, Ms. Grotian-Ryan
   BMIT: Stands as approved
   Criminal Justice: Dr. Asmnussen, Dr. Sharma

VI. Dean Galardi proposed competency testing for Business, Psychology, and Criminal Justice majors. This would be in house and would measure how the department’s majors compare to national norms.

VII. Dean Galardi asked for an ad-hoc committee for School of Professional Studies Student Marketing. Mr. Jackson volunteered for that work.

VIII. Dr. Grotian advised that she still needed volunteers to prepare tests for the High School Business Contest.
   Advanced Accounting: Mr. Knape
   Business Math: Ms. Grotian-Ryan

IX. Dean Galardi advised that there would not be time to complete the agenda. The School of Professional Studies will meet again on Thursday, September 29, 2011 at 3:30 p.m. in TUM 302.

X. Meeting was adjourned at 4:58 p.m. with a motion and second by Mr. Jackson and Dr. Grotian.

Attachment: Peru State College General Studies Revision Proposal
Peru State College
General Studies Revision Proposal
September 12, 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 be much more than the current general studies limit (47 hours), plus MATH 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.

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 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 Schools. 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 earlier;
- 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 1 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 stop 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 12, 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.

Current Proposal Information

Program Prerequisites – Not included in the proposed General Studies Program, but are required of all students as program prerequisites unless placement standards are met. Placement standards can be revised or created if necessary. Effectively most students will have one or more requirements in this area. The less prepared would take up to 18 hours.

- Effective Writing Skills (use current standards for placement in ENG 100 or ENG 101?)
- Effective Math Skills (use current standards for placement in MATH 100, Math 110, or MATH 112?). Will MATH 120 still be needed for Business Program?
- Effective Verbal Communication Skills (develop assessment standards, completion of speech course in HS with B or better?)
- Effective Computer Skills (develop assessment standards, software apps course in HS with B or better?)
Collegiate Skills (8 hours)

- Introduction to Collegiate Education – COLL 101 (increased to 2 hours)
- Collegiate Communication – ENG 201, Eng 309 Creative Communications (rename from Creative Writing and include presentation component) or BUS 301 Organizational Communications
- Quantitative Reasoning – MATH 240 (currently offered as 340)

Perspectives on Values, Thought, and Aesthetics (9 hours)
One course in each of the following areas:

- Literature
- Fine and Performing Art
- Philosophy

Methods of Inquiry and Explanatory Schema (minimum 16 hours)
One course in each of the following areas, except for the social science focus studies two course sequence. One course must include a lab component.

- Physical Science
- Biological Science
- Behavioral Science (one Psychology, Sociology, or Anthropology course)
- Social Science Focus Studies (2 courses required)
  - History Sequence (American or World Civ), or
  - Economics Sequence, or
  - Political Science & Human Geography

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: 36 hours for the formal General Studies Program, and up to 54 hours for the less prepared. Current requirements are up to 56 hours (up to 47 in the General Studies, plus 6 for those who need MATH and ENG 100, plus 3 for those who take CMIS 101).