

**Institute Undergraduate Curriculum Committee
Academic Matters and Petitions Meeting
Tuesday, December 10, 2013**

Present: Hollengreen (ARCH), Pikowsky (REG), Senf (LMC), Smith (ME), Goodisman (BIOL), Loss (MATH), Yaszek (LMC), Klein (ECE) MacIntyre (CoC), Scott (CEE), Berry (PUBP), Wilkinson (CHEM), Singleton (PSYC), Stein (DoS), Economou (ARCH), Mayor (ME)

Visitors: Laros (REG), Barke (PUBP), Appel-Silbaugh (ODOS)

Academic Matters

1. Dr. Richard Barke updated the Committee on the current status of the X-degree conversation and provided details about how the program might be structured. There were a number of questions from the Committee members that should help inform the preparation of the prospectus if the proposal moves forward. The following observations and comments were offered by Committee members.

On the title of the degree and concentrations

- The title of the degree will be important. Calling it a “Bachelor of Science in Integrative Studies” or something along those lines might make sense, but we will still need to describe the program itself, both in the proposal and on students’ transcripts, in such a way as to make clear what students might gain from it.
- It is possible that concentrations might be required as part of this program. If so, there will likely be other questions about the nature of these concentrations and how they are to be managed.

On the structure of the degree and the curriculum

- Will the gateway course be substantial enough to justify 3 credits when most students in other degree programs receive advising on their plan of study outside of specific coursework?
- There was concern about whether the second semester of freshman year might be too early to expect students to formulate a viable plan of study. If created that early, would the plan of study be likely to go through too many changes afterwards?
- The degree must incorporate the correct proportion of 3000- and 4000-level courses: at least 21 credits of the major and 39 credits of students’ coursework overall must be in upper division classes.
- There was concern about students being able to skip over prerequisites for advanced courses in many fields. It may be a tricky process to allow these students into upper-division courses in various units, if those courses have prerequisites. Prerequisites usually exist for a reason and are foundational for performance in that course.

Prerequisite waivers, then, should be considered very carefully so that X-degree students are not put at a disadvantage.

- Are 9 credits for the capstone project necessary and reasonable? Most capstone work in other majors is for 6 credits or less.
- A suggestion was made to consider a five-year BS/MS program, with the X-degree forming the advanced MS portion.

Faculty Participation

- There were questions about faculty load related to advising and other aspects of this program. It would seemingly require more attention to advising than existing programs and it is unclear how that faculty work would be accounted, both in terms of time and money, relative to faculty members' other teaching obligations.
- Advising is likely to be more complicated, compared to other programs, because the advisors will have to be much more broadly knowledgeable about programs at Tech. Committee members indicated that although they can speak with some clarity on their own unit's offerings, they may know very little about other programs on campus.
- It was suggested that an annual training workshop for potential faculty advisors would be desirable, both to share best practices and to facilitate advisor networking.

Admissions

- It would be important for the program to not degenerate into a "fall-back" plan for students who are not successful in other majors. This should not be considered a "second-tier" degree at Tech.
- The present proposal is that students would not be admitted directly into this program. It needs to be decided at what point students could be admitted or even readmitted into this program, what the criteria would be, etc.

Assessment

- Assessment of the program would have to be carefully thought out and some type of review—of both individual courses and the degree program as a whole—would need to be done on a regular basis to ensure that the implementation of the degree remained true to how it was approved.

Administration

- There was discussion of where this program would live, administratively. Given that students from any college can participate, someone will have to "own" the program.
- An advisory board is proposed, to provide oversight for the program and make certain that all the participating units are part of the decision-making process and have

responsibility for quality control. It is assumed that all study plans would have to be approved by a faculty advisor and by the advisory board.

The Committee was supportive of the X-degree idea. The prospectus that will have to go to the BOR for approval before a formal proposal could be introduced will likely generate some questions. The better thinking we do now, the better able we will be to formulate a thorough and clear proposal.

Petitions

1. Student Petitions Considered and Voted-Upon by the Committee

All were approved except as noted:

8- Term withdrawal

6- Selective withdrawal (**3 Denied**)

1- Reinstate course by changing full withdrawal to selective withdrawal (**1 Denied**)

1- Overload request for the Spring 2014 term

2- Request exception to honor cord policy (**2 Denied**)

2. Petitions Handled by Administrative Decision

The following petitions met the guidelines for “Administrative Action,” and were decided by the Registrar under the authority granted to her by the Committee. All were approved except as noted:

1- Change registration hours for the Fall 2013 term

1- Extension of incompletes

9- Return for the Fall 2013 term

1- Register late for the Fall 2013 term

1- Use CETL3000 as free elective

1- Use INTA4803 towards Russian Minor

2- Grade mode change

1- Use transfer ECON2105/2106 despite taking ECON2100 at Tech (**1 Denied**)

2- Use “D” toward degree requirement, despite F in second attempt of course

1- Count both instances of a MUSI course towards degree

1- 10-year rule waiver

1- Level override for the Spring 2014 term

Adjourned,
Reta Pikowsky