Minutes of the CSM Senate Meeting
Held on November, 18th, 2013, Monday
2.30 – 4.00 P.M. at Dean’s Conference room

Members in attendance:
Catalin Zara, Chair, Mathematics
Michelle Foster, Chemistry
Robert Stevenson, Biology
Juanita Urban-Rich, School for the Environment
Bob Wilson, Computer Science
Stephen Arnason, alternate representative for the Physics Department

Members absent:
Chandra S. Yelleswarapu, Physics
Manickam Sugumaran, Biology

Others in attendance:
William Hagar, Associate Dean, CSM
Marietta Schwartz, Associate Dean, CSM

Meeting was called to order at 2:35 pm.

1. **Motion** to approve the minutes from the committee’s previous meeting, October 21st, 2013 passed with unanimous approval.

2. New Business

2.a Motion to change the credits of Physics 611 from 3 to 4 credits

Rationale: All theory courses in the graduate Physics sequence are listed in WISER for 4 credits except Physics 611 that is listed for 3 credits – the printed catalog lists Physics 611 for 4 credits. When it was revived last year, after a long hiatus, it was taught by Bala Sundaram as a 4 credit course (4 hours of lecture per week). Making Physics 611 a 4 credit course will make it consistent with the other theory courses in Physics and with allow MS students to achieve the total number of credits necessary to graduate without taking addition courses.

**Motion** to approve the change in the course credit from 3 to 4 credits passed with unanimous approval. The proposal will be sent to the Graduate Studies Committee.

2.b. Motion to change the course numbers of

1) PHYSIC 615 - Solid State Physics: change number to PHYSIC 630
2) PHYSIC 621 – Semiconductor Materials: change number to PHYSIC 631
3) PHYSIC 650 – Stochastic Processes: change number to PHYSIC 637

Rationale: These graduate Physics courses have numbers that do not indicate a sequence helpful to graduate students.

**Motion** to approve the changes in the course numbers passed with unanimous approval. The proposal will be sent to the Graduate Studies Committee.

2.c. Motion to change the title of BIOL 627 – Bacterial Physiology to Bacterial Physiology and Functional/Comparative Genomics

Rationale: The content of BIOL 627 has changed over the years. The new title and description better reflect the current content of the course.

The committee noted that the forms need to be changed to reflect a change in the course description as well as the course title. Stevenson will contact Professor Shiaris in the Biology department about the changes.

**Motion** to approve the changes in the course title and description passed with unanimous approval. The proposal will be sent to the Graduate Studies Committee once the One Form is corrected and the current information is included with the form.

2.d. Motion to pre-approve the new course BIOL 361 – Bioinformatics Lab.

Rationale: This course adds a lab to Bio 360 Bioinformatics

**Motion** to pre-approve the new course passed with unanimous approval. The proposal will be sent to the Academic Affairs Committee.

2.e. Motion to pre-approve the new course BIOL 359 - Caribbean Tropical Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation Biology.

Rationale: This is a new field course in Puerto Rico offered for undergraduates during the January interim period.

**Motion** to pre-approve the new course passed with unanimous approval. The proposal will be sent to the Academic Affairs Committee.

2.f. Motion to approve the new course BIOL 559 - Caribbean Tropical Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation Biology.

Rationale: Many undergraduate courses now have corresponding graduate course numbers to allow graduate participation. BIOL 559 is the addition of parallel graduate section to BIOL 359 specifically for M.A.Ed. students.
Committee members noted that the addition work required for graduate credit needs to be a clearly defined. There also needs to be a separate graduate syllabus included. Stevenson will speak to Dr. Revel about providing the additional information.

**Motion** to table the proposal until the additional information is provided passed with unanimous approval.

2.f. **Motion** to pre-approve the new course CS 443 - Mobile.

Rationale: Mobile devices are widely used today. Adding this course gives undergraduates the opportunity to learn the environment for and challenges of programming mobile devices.

**Motion** to pre-approve the new course passed with unanimous approval. The proposal will be sent to the Academic Affairs Committee.

3. Dean’s announcements

Marietta Schwartz said the University grew 3% last year based mainly on 16% growth in the CSM.

Marietta Schwartz discussed the Math Placement Exam situation and alternatives that are being considered.

4. Other business - None

The meeting was adjourned at 4.05 pm