Minutes -- CSM Senate Meeting

Date: Monday, April 14th, 2014
Time: 2:30pm - 4:00pm
Location: CSM Dean's Office Conference Room

Members in attendance:
Catalin Zara, Mathematics, Chair
Chandra Yelleswarapu, Physics, Secretary
Manickam Sugumaran, Biology
Bob Wilson, Computer Science
Michelle Foster, Chemistry
Juanita Urban-Rich, School for the Environment

Member absent:
Robert Stevenson, Biology

Others in attendance:
Marietta Schwartz, Associate Dean, CSM
Jason Evans, Chemistry
Filip Cuckov, Engineering Program

Meeting was called to order at 2:35 pm.

1. Approval of the March 10, 2014 meeting minutes.
   The motion to approve the March 10, 2014 meeting minutes was seconded and approved unanimously.

   Updates on previous actions: Following AAC recommendations, CS 438, ENGIN 341, 346, 441, and 446 have been approved by the CSM Senate and sent to the CSM Dean's Office.

2. New business:
   2a. Addition of CHEM 693 - Graduate Writing Workshop.
       Motion: To approve CHEM 663 - Graduate Writing Workshop, as a new course.
       Rationale: The writing process should not begin once a student's research is concluded but should be an integral part of the research endeavor. It should serve as an integrated component that initiates the research process and directs and redirects the aims of the research through the culmination of the thesis or dissertation work. This course is designed to foster the integration of the writing component throughout all of the stages of research process. It is anticipated that the offering of this course will lead to an overall increase in productivity of our graduate students in terms of peer-reviewed publications and theses and dissertations of high quality.
A motion to approve the new course CHEM 663 was seconded and approved unanimously. Pending approval from the CSM Dean's Office, the proposal will be sent to the Graduate Studies Committee of the Faculty Council.

Items 2b - 2e were considered together.

2b. **Cross-listing of EEOS 623 - Introduction to Geographic Information Systems, as UPCD 623L.**

*Motion:* To approve cross-listing of EEOS 623 - Introduction to Geographic Information Systems, as UPCD 623L.

*Rationale:* Cross-listing course to serve new MS program in Urban Planning and Community Development.

2c. **Cross-listing of ECON/EEOS 670L - Environmental and Energy Economics, as UPCD 670L.**

*Motion:* To approve cross-listing of ECON/EEOS670L - Environmental and Energy Economics, as UPCD 670L.

*Rationale:* Cross-listing course to serve new MS program in Urban Planning and Community Development.

2d. **Cross-listing of EEOS/MBAMGT 674L - Climate and Energy: Law, Policy and Management, as UPCD 674L.**

*Motion:* To approve cross-listing of EEOS/MBAMGT674L - Climate and Energy: Law, Policy and Management, as UPCD 674L.

*Rationale:* Cross-listing course to serve new MS program in Urban Planning and Community Development.

2e. **Cross-listing of EEOS 718 - Environmental Law and Policy: Federal Agencies, Courts, and Congress, as UPCD 718L.**

*Motion:* To approve cross-listing of EEOS 718 - Environmental Law and Policy: Federal Agencies, Courts, and Congress, as UPCD 718L.

*Rationale:* Cross-listing course to serve new MS program in Urban Planning and Community Development.

Motions to approve the cross-listings the above courses as UPCD 623L, 670L, 674L, and 718L were seconded and approved unanimously. Pending approval from the CSM Dean's Office, the proposals will be sent to the Graduate Studies Committee of the Faculty Council.

Items 2f1 - 2f4 were considered together.

2f1. **Revision of EEOS MS - Thesis Track requirements. Changes in course requirements.**

*Motion:* To approve the changes in course requirements for EEOS MS - Thesis Track.

*Rationale:* Aligning the MS and PhD curriculum with the degree name and goals and distinguishing the program from our Marine Science and Technology programs. Currently the course requirements for the MS and PhD in Environmental Sciences are identical to the MS
and PhD in Marine Science and Technology curriculum. With the elimination of the Intercampus School for Marine Science and its conversion to the Intercampus Marine Science and Technology Graduate Program the School faculty voted to strategically align the Environmental Sciences graduate program curriculum with the strengths in faculty expertise in the fields. By doing so we will be able to better support recruitment and graduation in both programs. The changes to the MS and PhD course requirements for the Environmental Sciences programs are also aligned with the curriculum of the new NSF-supported IGERT program which will also support facilitation of transdisciplinary environmental training. We will continue to offer the courses required for the MS and PhD in Marine Science and Technology both in person (they are elective courses for the Environmental Sciences MS and PhD) and through distance learning in collaboration with our partners at UMass Dartmouth.

2f2. **Revision of EEOS MS - Non-Thesis Track requirements. Changes in course requirements.**  
**Motion:** To approve the changes in course requirements for EEOS MS - Non-Thesis Track.  
**Rationale:** See rationale for 2f1.

2f3. **Revision of EEOS MS - PSM Track requirements. Changes in course requirements.**  
**Motion:** To approve the changes in course requirements for EEOS MS - PSM Track.  
**Rationale:** See rationale for 2f1.

2f4. **Revision of EEOS Ph.D. requirements. Changes in course requirements.**  
**Motion:** To approve the changes in course requirements for EEOS Ph.D.  
**Rationale:** See rationale for 2f1.

At the March 2014 meeting, when these changes were initially discussed, CSM Senate members requested clarification regarding EEOS 600 - Responsible Conduct in Research. The new documents show EEOS 600 as a required core course for all tracks except PSM; EEOS 600 is not a requirement for the PSM since that isn’t a research degree. Motions to approve the revisions to EEOS MS Thesis, Non-Thesis, PSM and PhD track requirements were seconded and approved unanimously. Pending approval from the CSM Dean’s Office, the proposals will be sent to the Graduate Studies Committee of the Faculty Council.

Items 2g - 2i were considered together.

2g. **Revision of EEOS 305 - Hydrology. Changes in course description and prerequisites.**  
**Motion:** To pre-approve the changes in course description and prerequisites for EEOS 305 - Hydrology.  
**Rationale:** This course is designed as a junior-level elective. To ensure that students complete their required sophomore skills course (EEOS 281) and have mathematics competency at at least the level of pre-calculus level we are proposing to add pre-requisites to the course. This will support student success and assist majors in following their 4-year degree plan. A couple of minor typos in the course description are also fixed.

2h. **Revision of EEOS 372 - Introduction to Remote Sensing. Changes in pre-requisites.**
Motion: To pre-approve the changes in prerequisites for EEOS 372 - Introduction to Remote Sensing.

Rationale: The current pre-reqs are EEOS 120 or EEOS 261 or permission of instructor. To ensure that students have completed their sophomore course in GIS prior to taking this course and also have completed their statistics skills requirement we are changing the pre-requisite to make sure this course is taken as intended after completion of the skills course requirements for the major.


Motion: To pre-approve the changes in course title, description, and prerequisites for EEOS 383 - Water Resources Management.

Rationale: We are reshaping the course so that it isn't a full GIS-based course and thus doesn't need EOES 281/380. It has to have the first year sequence done, which ends with EEOS 122, while our minors have to have completed ENVSTY 101. Since the course serves as an elective for the major and 2 minors, we seek to lower the pre-reqs to allow students to take it in a timely manner depending on the program they are in. Changing the title and course focus will more accurately reflect course content and curricular needs of the Environmental Science BA and BS programs.

Motions to pre-approve the revisions to courses EEOS 305, EEOS 373, and EEOS 383 were seconded and approved unanimously. The proposals will be sent to the Academic Affairs Committee.

Items 2j - 2k were considered together.

2j. Revision of ENGIN EE requirements. Allow CS 110 or CS 109 instead of CS 110 only.

Motion: To approve the revision of ENGIN EE requirements: replace the CS 110 requirement by [CS 110 or CS 109].

Rationale: The reason for this minor modification is our preference for EE majors to learn the C programming language which is frequently used in instrument controls and microprocessors. EE majors currently take the course CS 110 (Introduction to Computing, 4 credits) to fulfill their programing requirement, in which they learn Java - an object and data oriented computer language. We would like to offer EE majors the flexibility to take either CS 110 or CS 109 (Computer Programming for Engineers, 3 credits), in which they learn programming skills in C - a function and procedure oriented C language.

2k. Revision of ENGIN CE requirements. Replace three electives (two CE concentration electives and one ECE elective) by ENGIN 341, 346, and 446. Replace CS 341 by CS 310.

Motion: To approve the proposed revision of ENGIN CE requirements: replace three electives (two CE concentration electives and one ECE elective) by ENGIN 341, 346, and 446, and replace CS 341 by CS 310.

Rationale: The three ENGIN courses strengthen the CE core curriculum and align it with the prescribed "Curriculum Guidelines for Undergraduate Degree Programs in Computer Engineering," a report crafted by The Joint Task Force on Computing Curricula consisting of
the Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Computer Society, and the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM).

The reason for replacing CS 341 by CS 310 is that CS 341 consists of topics that are covered in much greater detail in the following required engineering courses: ENGIN 241 - Digital Systems with Lab, ENGIN 346 - Microcontrollers, and ENGIN 446 - Computer Architecture Design. CS 310 introduces students to a systematic study of algorithm design and analysis, advanced program development and organization, and data structures; an important knowledge-base that is needed for several Senior-level classes in CE.

These modifications have become necessary as we have introduced three newly-developed required courses and fine-tuned the curriculum around them.

Motions to pre-approve the revisions to ENGIN EE and CE requirements were seconded and approved unanimously. The proposals will be sent to the Majors, Honors, and Special Programs Committee.

3. Dean's announcements

   Associate Dean Schwartz provided the following updates:

   The new Math Placement test will be administered starting May 1st, 2014. Students can access the test through their WISER accounts and can take the test up to five times within the first year. Learning modules will be recommended based on the test performance.

   The CSM nominee for the 2014 JFK Award is Phong Truong, who is pursuing a major in MATH and a minor in CS.

   The CLA has a new interdisciplinary minor - Science Medicine and Society combining History of Science and History of Medicine.

   Welcome day was a huge success. The CSM attracted more students than any other college.

4. Other business.

   The Senate had an informal discussion on the CSM Constitution and By-Laws.

5. Adjourn.

   Motion to adjourn was seconded and approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 pm.