Minutes - May 11, 2015 - CSM Senate Meeting

Date: Monday, May 11th, 2015  
Time: 2:30pm - 4:00pm  
Location: CSM Dean's Office Conference Room

Members in attendance:  
Catalin Zara, Mathematics, Chair  
Chandra Yelleswarapu, Physics, Secretary  
Michelle Foster, Chemistry  
Juanita Urban-Rich, SfE  
Ping Chen, Engineering  
Robert Stevenson, Biology  
Wei Ding, Computer Science

Members absent:  
Manickam Sugumaran, Biology

Others in attendance:  
Swami Iyer, Computer Science  
William Hagar, Associate Dean, CSM  
Andrew Grosovsky, Dean, CSM

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 pm.

1. Approval of the April 13, 2015 meeting minutes.  
   A motion to approve the April 13, 2015 meeting minutes was seconded and approved unanimously.

2. Announcements  
   Dean Grosovsky announced that the PhD programs in Integrative Biosciences and in Computational Sciences have been approved by the Faculty Council.

3. New business

3a. Addition of BIOL 354 - The Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Diseases

   Motion: To pre-approve the addition of BIOL 354 - The Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Diseases.

   Rationale: This course was first given in fall 2014 as a Special Topics course and was popular among students (mainly seniors). There is adequate student interest to offer this course every fall. It is a field of enormous interest today and brings together various interdisciplinary fields of biology. Graduate students may also benefit from the new course.

   A motion to pre-approve the addition of BIOL 354 was seconded and approved unanimously. The proposal will be sent to the Academic Affairs Committee.
3b.  **Revision of CS 110 - Introduction to Computing. Changes in course description and requisites.**

**Motion:** To pre-approve the revision of CS 110 - Introduction to Computing. Changes in course description and requisites.

**Rationale:** Reason for change in description: Since Python is becoming the language of choice in a wide range of computational settings, many Computer Science departments have adopted Python as the language of instruction in their introductory Computer Science courses. We want to do the same starting Fall 2015 and teach CS110 in Python instead of Java, following Harvey Mudd College's CS for All (see [http://www.cs.hmc.edu/csforall/](http://www.cs.hmc.edu/csforall/)) curriculum. Reason for change in pre-requisites: To be successful in CS110 and the follow-up course (CS210), students must be familiar with precalculus-level mathematics. To ensure this, we want students who are placed into Math 130 to take the course as a co-requisite.

A motion to pre-approve the revision of CS 110 was seconded and approved unanimously. The proposal will be sent to the Academic Affairs Committee.

3c.  **Revision of CS 210 - Intermediate Computing with Data Structures. Changes in description and requisites.**

**Motion:** To pre-approve the revision of CS 210 - Intermediate Computing with Data Structures. Changes in description and requisites.

**Rationale:** To make it consistent with the proposed changes to CS110.

A motion to pre-approve the revision of CS 210 was seconded and approved unanimously. The proposal will be sent to the Academic Affairs Committee.

3d.  **Addition of CS 461 - Computer Games Programming.**

**Motion:** To pre-approve the addition of CS 461 - Computer Games Programming.

**Rationale:** The computer game industry provides a lot of job opportunities for computer science students. On the other hand, there are a significant number of students interested in games development. So far, there is no computer games programming course offered in the Computer Science Department. This course is designed to equip our students with the necessary technical skills to become game development professionals.

A motion to pre-approve the addition of CS 461 was seconded and approved unanimously. The proposal will be sent to the Academic Affairs Committee.

3e.  **Revision of EEOS 120 - Introduction to Environmental, Earth and Ocean Sciences. Changes in title and course description.**

**Motion:** To pre-approve the revision of EEOS 120 - Introduction to Environmental, Earth and Ocean Sciences. Changes in title and course description.

**Rationale:** The degree name change from Environmental, Earth and Ocean Sciences in 2013 requires the change in course title and description.

A motion to pre-approve the revision of EEOS 120 was seconded and approved unanimously. The proposal will be sent to the Academic Affairs Committee.

3f.  **Revision of EEOS 121 - Introduction to Environmental, Earth and Ocean Sciences Lab. Changes in title, description, and pre-requisites.**

**Motion:** To pre-approve the revision of EEOS 121 - Introduction to Environmental, Earth and Ocean Sciences Lab. Changes in title, description, and pre-requisites.

**Rationale:** The degree name change from Environmental, Earth and Ocean Sciences in 2013
requires the change in course title and description.

A motion to pre-approve the revision of EEOS 121 was seconded and approved unanimously. The proposal will be sent to the Academic Affairs Committee.

3g. **Revision of EEOS 187 - EEOS Gateway Seminar I. Changes in title and description.**

**Motion:** To pre-approve the revision of EEOS 187 - EEOS Gateway Seminar I. Changes in title and description.

**Rationale:** The degree name change from Environmental, Earth and Ocean Sciences in 2013 requires the change in course title.

A motion to pre-approve the revision of EEOS 187 was seconded and approved unanimously. The proposal will be sent to the Academic Affairs Committee.

3h. **Revision of EEOS 188 - EEOS Gateway Seminar II. Changes in title and description.**

**Motion:** To pre-approve the revision of EEOS 188 - EEOS Gateway Seminar II. Changes in title and description.

**Rationale:** The degree name change from Environmental, Earth and Ocean Sciences in 2013 requires the change in course title.

A motion to pre-approve the revision of EEOS 188 was seconded and approved unanimously. The proposal will be sent to the Academic Affairs Committee.

3i. **Revision of EEOS 261 - Statistics for Environmental, Earth and Ocean Sciences. Changes in title, description, and pre-requisites.**

**Motion:** To pre-approve the revision of EEOS 261 - Statistics for Environmental, Earth and Ocean Sciences. Changes in title, description, and pre-requisites.

**Rationale:** The degree name change from Environmental, Earth and Ocean Sciences in 2013 requires the change in course title and description. As this is a course with applications in Environmental Sciences, students must have completed the introductory level courses in the Environmental Science program for enrollment.

**Discussion:** Senate members raised concern about the list of pre-requisites. They believe that placing to Math 125 or 129 should be enough, not necessary to list all the pre-requisites of Math 125 as pre-requisites for this course. Members suggested adding a sentence like "Students are not allowed to take both Math 125 and this course for credits" in the course description.

A motion to pre-approve the revision of EEOS 261, pending these changes, was seconded and approved unanimously. The proposal will be sent to the Academic Affairs Committee.

3j. **Revision of EEOS 476 - EEOS Capstone - An Integration of Natural and Social Environmental Sciences. Changes in title and description.**

**Motion:** To pre-approve the revision of EEOS 476 - EEOS Capstone - An Integration of Natural and Social Environmental Sciences. Changes in title and description.

**Rationale:** The degree name change from Environmental, Earth and Ocean Sciences in 2013 requires the change in course title.

A motion to pre-approve the revision of EEOS 476 was seconded and approved unanimously. The proposal will be sent to the Academic Affairs Committee.
3k. **Revision of EEOS 498 - Honors in Environmental, Earth and Ocean Sciences. Changes in title and course description.**

**Motion:** To pre-approve the revision of EEOS 498 - Honors in Environmental, Earth and Ocean Sciences. Changes in title and course description.

**Rationale:** The degree name change from Environmental, Earth and Ocean Sciences in 2013 requires the change in course title and description.

A motion to pre-approve the revision of EEOS 498 was seconded and approved unanimously. The proposal will be sent to the Academic Affairs Committee.

3l. **Addition of EEOS 104 - Dinosaurs: A Natural History.**

**Motion:** To pre-approve the addition of EEOS 104 - Dinosaurs: A Natural History.

**Rationale:** The School offers a number of distribution courses but none explicitly address issues of evolution and climate change. Through the lens of the dinosaurs and their evolution and extinction this course will provide students an introductory perspective on the Earth while also engaging them in a subject everyone loves ... dinosaurs!

A motion to pre-approve the addition of EEOS 104 was seconded and approved unanimously. The proposal will be sent to the Academic Affairs Committee.

3m. **Addition of EEOS 393 - Ecophysiology and Conservation of Fishes.**

**Motion:** To pre-approve the addition of EEOS 393 - Ecophysiology and Conservation of Fishes.

**Rationale:** The Marine Science track in the BS/BA in Environmental Science requires breadth and depth in marine animal ecology. Currently the School lacks courses in critical areas of fisheries including conservation and fish ecology. This course meets a need for students to gain practical knowledge in an area of study central to on-going research in the School for the Environment. The course also strategically leverages our collaboration with New England Aquarium further strengthening our teaching and research programs.

**Discussion:** It appears that this course has two components - lecture and lab. However, that is not clearly mentioned in the one-form;. Members requested clarification on how the grading is distributed among the components and asked for a modified one-form.

A motion to pre-approve the addition of EEOS 393 pending suggested changes was seconded and unanimously approved. After receiving the revised one-form the course proposal will be sent to Academic Affairs Committee.

3n. **Addition of EEOS 693 - Ecophysiology and Conservation of Fishes.**

**Motion:** To approve the addition of EEOS 693 - Ecophysiology and Conservation of Fishes.

**Rationale:** The Marine Science and Technology MS and PhD program requires breadth and depth in marine animal ecology. Currently the School lacks courses in critical areas of fisheries including conservation and fish ecology. This course meets a need for students to gain practical knowledge in an area of study central to on-going research in the School for the Environment. The course also strategically leverages our collaboration with New England Aquarium further strengthening our teaching and research programs.

A motion to approve the revision of EEOS 693 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 3o - 3q were considered together.

3o. **Addition of USEA 100 - Boating Basics.**
   
   **Motion:** To pre-approve the addition of USEA 100 - Boating Basics.
   
   **Rationale:** The Course code USEA was approved for use to allow for listing of courses through CAPS that meet the mission and goals of the School for the Environment's educational programs which includes an explicit focus on providing all students, staff and faculty with access to and appreciation for our coastal marine environment.

3p. **Addition of USEA 104 - Open Water SCUBA Diver Certification.**
   
   **Motion:** To pre-approve the addition of USEA 104 - Open Water SCUBA Diver Certification.
   
   **Rationale:** The Course code USEA was approved for use to allow for listing of courses through CAPS that meet the mission and goals of the School for the Environment's educational programs which includes an explicit focus on providing all students, staff and faculty with access to and appreciation for our coastal marine environment.

3q. **Addition of USEA 105 - Advanced Open Water & Rescue Diver Certification.**
   
   **Motion:** To pre-approve the addition of USEA 105 - Advanced Open Water & Rescue Diver Certification.
   
   **Rationale:** The Course code USEA was approved for use to allow for listing of courses through CAPS that meet the mission and goals of the School for the Environment's educational programs which includes an explicit focus on providing all students, staff and faculty with access to and appreciation for our coastal marine environment.
   
   **Discussion:** The CSM senate understands the importance of these courses as they help in developing skills needed by some students in order to conduct environmental research. Members inquired whether it wouldn't be more appropriate to classify these courses as lab courses with fewer credits, aligned with other similar lab courses offered through CSM. It was also suggested that these courses be made part of a certificate program. The CSM Senate needs more time to review these courses and requested additional information.

   A motion to table these proposals was seconded and approved unanimously.

4. Other business.
   
   None.

5. Adjourn.
   
   The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 pm.