Minutes - Sep 21, 2015 - CSM Senate Meeting

Date: Monday, September 21st, 2015
Time: 2:30pm - 4:00pm
Location: CSM Dean's Office Conference Room

Members in attendance:
Catalin Zara, Mathematics, Chair
Rahul Kulkarni, Physics, Secretary
Michelle Foster, Chemistry
Meng Zhou, SfE
Ping Chen, Engineering
Robert Stevenson, Biology
Wei Ding, Computer Science
Manickam Sugumaran, Biology

Others in attendance:
Andrew Grosovsky, Dean, CSM
Marietta Schwartz, Associate Dean, CSM

The meeting was called to order at 2:35 pm.

1. Introduction of new members
The CSM Senate welcomed new members Rahul Kulkarni (Physics) and Meng Zhou (SfE), and thanked Chandra Yelleswarapu (Physics) and Juanita Urban-Rich (SfE) for their valuable contributions during their terms.

2. Elections.

2a. Election of CSM Senate Chair for AY 2015-16.
Catalin Zara has been unanimously re-elected as the Chairperson of the CSM Senate for AY 2015-2016.

2b. Election of CSM Senate Secretary for AY 2015-16.
Rahul Kulkarni has been nominated for the position of Secretary of the CSM Senate for AY 2015-2016. He has been unanimously elected as Secretary of the CSM Senate for AY 2015-2016.

3. Approval of the May 11, 2015 meeting minutes.
A motion to approve the May 11, 2015 meeting minutes was seconded and approved unanimously.

4. Announcements
• The Scholarship Committee has completed the review of applications for the Litton/Brann scholarships.
• The status of proposals forwarded from the CSM Senate was discussed.
• The formation of the Research sub-committee has been approved by the Faculty Council in May 2015.
• In accordance with Board of Trustees policy, Provost Langley is conducting a review of Andrew Grosofsky, Dean of the College of Science and Mathematics. CSM faculty and staff are encouraged to participate by completing the online survey set-up by the Provost's Office and/or by meeting with the Review Committee.
• Dean Grosofsky announced that external review team visits had been conducted for the PhD programs in Integrative Biosciences and in Computational Sciences.
• The need for obtaining consent from all the relevant Deans for interdisciplinary proposals was discussed.

5. New business


The CSM Senate unanimously ratified the Dean's nominations for the 2015-2016 College Personnel Committee through an e-vote conducted between September 11 and September 14, 2015: Bela Torok (Chemistry), Steven Jackson (Mathematics), Maxim Olchanyi (Physics), Mike Rex (Biology), Crystal Schaaf (School for Environment), and Dan Simovici (Computer Science).

Earlier versions of proposals 5b-5d had been tabled at the May 11, 2015 meeting. The CSM Senate received satisfactory clarifications on the proposals. A motion to un-table proposals 5b-5d has been seconded and approved unanimously. These proposals were considered together.

5b. Addition of USEA 100 - Boating Basics.

Motion: To pre-approve the addition of USEA 100 - Boating Basics.

Rationale: This course provides students with lecture and lab experiences enabling them to build capacity in the basics of sail and motor boat operation ultimately receiving Coast Guard certification upon completion of the course. Boating is an essential skill for water-based research as well as a unique and dynamic recreation activity that ensures that all UMass Boston students and non-matriculated students gain experience on and exposure to our coastal environment. Unlike at other institutions where the course is taught primarily as a physical education course this course includes seamanship and environmental/oceanographic content and research skills on sea kayak and motor-based vessels. Boston University offers a diverse portfolio of waterfront courses and this course is the beginning of a similar tradition here at UMass Boston. The course is modeled on the CSU-Monterey Bay Small Boat Certification course which is offered for credit (4 units) offered by Science and Environmental Policy. While the course may appear unique to UMass Boston it is in fact common to environmental programs to offer such opportunities to campuses engaged in outdoor education and community engagement. [Revised May 20, 2015]

5c. Addition of USEA 104 - Open Water SCUBA Diver Certification.

Motion: To pre-approve the addition of USEA 104 - Open Water SCUBA Diver Certification.

Rationale: This course provides students with lecture and lab experiences enabling them to build capacity in basic SCUBA ultimately earning PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors) certification upon completion of the course. SCUBA is an essential skill for water-
based research as well as a unique and dynamic recreation activity that ensures that all UMass Boston students and non-matriculated students gain experience on and exposure to our marine environment. Unlike at other institutions where the course is taught primarily as a physical education course this course includes seamanship and environmental/oceanographic content and research skills and leads to advanced courses in research diving. The course is similar to those offered at other institutions with marine programs including Salem State University, MIT, Harvard, and Boston University. The course is modeled on the Basic SCUBA course at Salem State University which is offered for credit (1 credit) While the course may appear unique to UMass Boston it is in fact common to marine and environmental programs to offer such opportunities to campuses engaged in outdoor education and community engagement. [Revised May 20, 2015]

5d. **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:** This course provides students with lecture and lab experiences enabling them to build capacity in basic SCUBA ultimately earning PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors) certification upon completion of the course. SCUBA is an essential skill for water-based research as well as a unique and dynamic recreation activity that ensures that all UMass Boston students and non-matriculated students gain experience on and exposure to our marine environment. Unlike at other institutions where the course is taught primarily as a physical education course this course includes seamanship and environmental/oceanographic content and research skills and leads to advanced courses in research diving. The course is similar to those offered at other institutions with marine programs including Salem State University, MIT, Harvard, and Boston University. The course is modeled on the Advanced SCUBA course at Salem State University which is offered for credit (1 credit) While the course may appear unique to UMass Boston it is in fact common to marine and environmental programs to offer such opportunities to campuses engaged in outdoor education and community engagement. [Revised May 20, 2015]

Motions to pre-approve the additions of USEA 100, USEA 104, and USEA 105 as 1-credit lab courses were seconded and approved unanimously. The proposals will be sent to the Academic Affairs Committee.

Items 5e and 5f were considered together.

5e. **Revision of EEOS 603 - Coasts and Communities I. Changes in course description and credits.**

**Motion:** To approve the revision of EEOS 603 - Coasts and Communities I. Changes in course description and credits.

**Rationale:** Addition of 1 credit for discussion section. A number of students from other programs take this course as part of the IGERT Coasts and Communities program. These programs have requested that we add the pass/fail option for non-SFE grad program students.

5f. **Revision of EEOS 604 - Coasts and Communities II. Changes in course description and credits.**

**Motion:** To approve the revision of EEOS 604 - Coasts and Communities II. Changes in course description and credits.

**Rationale:** Addition of 1 credit for discussion section. A number of students from other programs take this course as part of the IGERT Coasts and Communities program. These programs have requested that we add the pass/fail option for non-SFE grad program students.

**Discussion:** It was noted that the pass/fail option is not allowed for graduate courses. That being
the case, there is no need for a change in the course description.

Motions to approve the revisions of EEOS 603 and EEOS 604, by changing the number of credits from 3 to 4 in order to reflect the additional 1 credit for the Discussion component, were seconded and approved unanimously. These proposals will be sent to the CSM Dean's Office once revised materials to reflect the conditional approvals will be received by the CSM Senate.

5g. **Addition of EEOS 676 - Optical Methods for Monitoring Aquatic Environments.**

**Motion:** To approve the addition of EEOS 676 - Optical Methods for Monitoring Aquatic Environments.

**Rationale:** From the >150 year-old measurements of Secchi disk depth (a quick, easy, and reliable measurement of water transparency) to contemporary optical-electrical sensors, optical methods play critical roles in obtaining important information (both qualitative and quantitative) for the monitoring of aquatic environments. In particular, with the launch and operation of a variety of satellite sensors, now we are able to collect large and synoptic data to characterize the spatial and temporal variations of inland lakes and coastal/oligotrophic oceans. All these rely on good understanding of the principles governing the relationships between the observed light and the desired environmental properties. The SFE offers many courses covering the aspects of physical, chemical, and biological oceanography and coastal environments, but no course yet to teach students the useful and important knowledge and techniques in monitoring aquatic environments with optical methods. This course will fill this void, and students taking this course will not only broaden their knowledge but also enhance their skills in analyzing aquatic environments from both in situ measurements and satellite remote sensing.

**Discussion:** It was noted that the One Form needs corrections and the signatures of the GPD and Chair. The existing syllabus needs to be presented in accordance with the Faculty Council template for new graduate courses.

A motion to conditionally approve the addition of EEOS 676, pending required changes, was seconded and approved unanimously.

6. Other business
7. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50pm.