CSM Senate Meeting

Date: Monday, October 19th, 2015  
Time: 2:30pm - 4:00pm  
Location: CSM Dean's Office Conference Room

Agenda:

1. Approval of the September 21, 2015 meeting minutes.
2. Announcements
3. New business
   3a. Addition of ENVSTY 321 - Spiders of Nantucket.  
       **Motion:** To pre-approve the addition of ENVSTY 321 - Spiders of Nantucket.  
       **Rationale:** New course for Nantucket Summer Programming.
   
       **Motion:** To pre-approve the addition of BIOL 362 - Simulating Life.  
       **Rationale:** Computer simulation of biological phenomena is an important and growing part of biological research, but students in the life sciences often shy away from using math and computer science as tools to study biology. The goal of Simulation in Biology is to show students how useful simulation is in understanding biology, and to convince them that anyone can learn to do it. In an interactive, cooperative, and synergistic setting, students will learn about biological simulation through readings and discussions, be trained to use the graphics-based simulation software Star Logo: The Next Generation (SLTNG), and work collaboratively on simulation projects of their own design. As computing power increases and simulations improve, the course will evolve to use the most up to date and powerful tools.

   3c. Revision of policy on the transfer of Professional Credits  
       **Motion:** To approve the change in policy regarding the transfer of professional credits. New policy:  
       *Students are allowed to transfer as many professional credits as are deemed appropriate to the university curriculum. The appropriateness of individual credit transfers would be assessed by a department who would receive the credits for its major, by the admissions officers who typically assess credits or by the registrar's office in the case of inter-college transfers. While this change in policy will allow students to transfer more credits, it will not influence the total number of transfer credits (no more than 90) allowed by CSM. This change in policy goes into effect for fall 2015.  
       **Rationale:** Currently a student can not transfer into UMB more than 24 professional credits. Professional credits are considered, among others: nursing, management, engineering, computer science, criminal justice. This policy was adopted at a time when there was a much greater division between undergraduate programs and those programs that provided pre-professional training in a variety of areas. We now offer all of these majors and the policy is outdated. There have been several cases recently where students could not graduate because they were short elective credit and had to take another class even though they had transfer credit that would have completed their credits.
3d. Revision of CHEM 313 - Change in prerequisites: addition of ENGL 101 as prerequisite.
   Motion: To pre-approve the revision of CHEM 313 - Analytical Chemistry Lab. Change in prerequisites: addition of ENGL 101 as pre-requisite.
   Rationale: The upper level chemistry labs are writing intensive courses. Students use these papers as part of their Writing Portfolio. These courses require college level writing, and this should be explicit in the pre-requisites.

3e. Revision of CHEM 314 - Change in prerequisites: addition of ENGL 102 as prerequisite or co-requisite.
   Motion: To pre-approve the revision of CHEM 314 - Physical Chemistry Lab. Change in prerequisites: addition of ENGL 102 as prerequisite or co-requisite.
   Rationale: The upper level chemistry labs are writing intensive courses. Students use these papers as part of their Writing Portfolio. These courses require college level writing, and this should be explicit in the pre-requisites.

3f. Program revision: change in requirements for the ENVSCI-BS.
   Motion: To pre-approve the revision of requirements for the ENVSCI-BS degree: change the requirement of a 2 semester course sequence in Calculus to a minimum of Calculus 1 (MATH 140 or MATH 145) only.
   Rationale: Currently students must complete both Calculus 1 (MATH 140 or 145) and Calculus 2 (MATH 141 or 146). We do not require students to complete either course as a pre-requisite for upper level electives and have added significant quantitative courses at the 200-level and above for our majors that provide the necessary modeling and statistical knowledge necessary for successful employment in or graduate study in the environmental science fields.

4. Other business.

5. Adjourn