Minutes -- CSM Senate Meeting

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

Members in attendance:
Catalin Zara, Mathematics, Chair
Rahul Kulkarni, Physics, Secretary
Meng Zhou, SiE
Ping Chen, Engineering
Wei Ding, Computer Science
Jonathan Rochford, Chemistry (for Michelle Foster)

Members absent:
Robert Stevenson, Biology
Manickam Sugumaran, Biology

Others in attendance:
Andrew Grosovsky, Dean, CSM - for part of the meeting
Marietta Schwartz, Associate Dean, CSM - for part of the meeting
Elizabeth Boyle, SiE - for part of the meeting

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

1. Approval of the September 21, 2015 meeting minutes.
   A motion to approve the September 21, 2015 meeting minutes was seconded and approved unanimously.

   Due to scheduling constraints the order of the items has been slightly altered, with the approval of the present voting members. Item 3a was discussed before the announcements.

2. Announcements

   - Dean Grosovsky discussed a proposal for the addition of an ad hoc member to the CPC for particular reviews. The proposal has been discussed with the Provost and is slated for further discussions within the Campus. A memorandum related to the proposal will be forwarded to the CSM Faculty Senate for further consideration.
   Dean Grosovsky left the meeting.

   - The CSM Dean's review is currently in progress and e-mails encouraging faculty participation have been sent out.

   - The status of proposals forwarded from the CSM Senate was discussed.
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.
**Discussion:** The intensive lab has two credits, following NEASC guidelines. The lab does not seem to be appropriate for regular semesters (spring and fall) due to weather constraints.

A motion to pre-approve the addition of ENVSTY 321 - Spiders of Nantucket was seconded and approved unanimously. The proposal will be sent to the Academic Affairs Committee.

Elizabeth Boyle left the meeting.

3b. **Addition of BIOL 362 - Simulating Life.**
**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.

A motion to pre-approve the addition of BIOL 362 - Simulating Life was seconded and approved unanimously. The proposal will be sent to the Academic Affairs Committee.

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.

A motion to approve the change in policy regarding the transfer of professional credits was seconded and approved unanimously.
Proposals 3d and 3e were considered together.

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.

Discussion: The CSM Senate members noted that it was unusual for higher level CSM courses to have explicit ENGL pre-requisites. Satisfactory justification was presented: the lab reports are writing intensive and some students, especially those coming through an ESL path, may be unsuccessful due to inability to communicate their knowledge.

Motions to pre-approve the proposed revisions of CHEM 313 (addition of ENGL 101 as prerequisite) and CHEM 314 (addition of ENGL 102 as pre-requisite or co-requisite) were seconded and approved unanimously. These proposals will be forwarded to the Academic Affairs Committee.

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.

Discussion: The CSM Senate noted that it was unfortunate that we need to require less mathematics for a BS degree, but the SIE representative indicated that that appears to be the current trend, with leading national programs making similar changes.

A motion to pre-approve the proposed revision of requirements for the ENVSCI-BS degree was seconded and unanimously approved. The proposal will be forwarded to the Academic Affairs Committee.

Marietta Schwartz left the meeting.

4. Other business.
• A motion to include the proposal for a new course BIOL 654 - Sustainability Science: Environment, Economy and Equity to the agenda was seconded and unanimously approved. Following the discussion a motion to approve the addition of the course was seconded and unanimously approved. It was also noted that departments need to avoid unnecessary delays in responding to requests for clarifications and/or revised materials, as those delays may result in unnecessary delays in considering and approving proposals.
• A discussion about governing documents was initiated and will continue at future meetings. It was suggested that these documents be made available on the CSM Senate webpage.

5. Adjourn
The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.