Minutes - Nov 16, 2015 - CSM Senate Meeting

Date: Monday, November 16th, 2015
Time: 2:30pm - 4:00pm
Location: CSM Dean's Office Conference Room

Members in attendance:
Catalin Zara, Mathematics, Chair
Rahul Kulkarni, Physics, Secretary
Manickam Sugumaran, Biology
Michelle Foster, Chemistry
Meng Zhou, SfE
Walter Buchwald (for Ping Chen), Engineering
Ming Ouyang (for Wei Ding), Computer Science

Members absent:
Robert Stevenson, Biology

Others in attendance:
Andrew Grosovsky, Dean, CSM
Robyn Hannigan, Dean, SfE
Alan Christian, Environmental Studies Program Director

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

1. Approval of the October 19, 2015 meeting minutes.
   A motion to approve the October 19, 2015 meeting minutes was seconded and approved unanimously.

2. Announcements
   There were no announcements.

3. New business

3a. CSM governance documents.
   A discussion regarding the origins, the process for updates and the need for changes to the CSM governance documents was initiated. The pros and cons of joint CSM-CLA subcommittees were discussed. Requests for modification of charge were discussed for two joint committees.

   - The Joint Standards and Credits Committee has requested a modification of charge stating that it can review readmission applications for CSM and CLA students. It was suggested that generating policies for deciding on such applications would constitute a better use of faculty time.
   - The Major Honors and Special Programs Committee has requested an addition of charge stating that it can review proposals for new or amended Centers or Institutes in CLA and CSM. The pros and cons of this request were discussed.
The discussion on the Constitution and By-laws focused on revisiting these documents to determine if any changes are needed. It was suggested that the documents should be forwarded and discussions should be initiated within departments to invite comments from faculty for updating the governance documents. The process for approving changes to the Constitution was discussed. It was suggested that the documents should be made more accessible by adding links to the CSM Senate web pages form the CSM website.

Items 3b - 3g were considered together.

3b. Addition of ENVSCI 386 - Fish Biology and Conservation.
   **Motion:** To pre-approve the addition of ENVSCI 386 - Fish Biology and Conservation.
   **Rationale:** This course serves as a basic introduction to fish biology and applications of fish biology to fisheries research including management and ecosystem-based management. It is a key elective in our Marine Science program and serves as the pre-requisite to two other courses (ENVSCI 393 and the proposed ENVSCI 395). This course is a 300+ elective in Environmental Science and therefore fulfills one of the three required courses at this level.

3c. Addition of ENVSCI 686 - Fish Biology and Conservation.
   **Motion:** To approve the addition of ENVSCI 686 - Fish Biology and Conservation.
   **Rationale:** This course serves as a basic introduction to fish biology and applications of fish biology to fisheries research including management and ecosystem-based management. It is an elective in the Marine Science and Technology MS and PhD and Environmental Science MS and PhD programs.

3d. Revision of ENVSCI 393 - Ecophysiology and Conservation of Fishes. Change in prerequisites.
   **Motion:** To pre-approve the revision of ENVSCI 393 - Ecophysiology and Conservation of Fishes. Change in prerequisites.
   **Rationale:** ENVSCI 386 was added to serve as a pre-requisite for this course.

3e. Revision of ENVSCI 693 - Ecophysiology and Conservation of Fishes. Change in prerequisites.
   **Motion:** To approve the revision of ENVSCI 693 - Ecophysiology and Conservation of Fishes. Change in prerequisites. **Note:** The addition of ENVSCI 693 is under consideration by the GSC.
   **Rationale:** ENVSCI 686 was added to serve as a pre-requisite for this course.

   **Motion:** To pre-approve the addition of ENVSCI 395 - Fisheries Ecology.
   **Rationale:** This course is an upper level elective rounding out a core sequence of courses in fisheries biology and conservation providing students with detailed understanding of the processes and policies associated with ecosystem-based management of fisheries stocks.

3g. Addition of ENVSCI 695 - Fisheries Ecology.
   **Motion:** To approve the addition of ENVSCI 695 - Fisheries Ecology.
   **Rationale:** This course is a graduate elective rounding out a core sequence of courses in fisheries biology and conservation providing students with detailed understanding of the processes and policies associated with ecosystem-based management of fisheries stocks.

Motions to (i) pre-approve the additions of ENVSCI 386 and ENVSCI 395, (ii) approve the additions of ENVSCI 686 and ENVSCI 695, (iii) to pre-approve the revision of ENVSCI 393, and (iv) to approve the revisions of ENVSCI 693 were seconded and approved unanimously. The
proposals for ENVSCI 386, ENVSCI 393 and ENVSCI 395 will be forwarded to the Academic Affairs Committee.

Manickam Sugumaran left the meeting.

Alan Christian gave an overview of the proposed additions of ENVSTY courses.

3h. **Addition of ENVSTY 201 - Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies.**

**Motion:** To pre-approve the addition of ENVSTY 201 - Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies.

**Rationale:** This course is a second year requirement of the proposed Environmental Studies and Sustainability BA.

The discussion focused on the course contents, how general is the course and whether the title should be more informative. It was suggested that the course rubric be changed to INTR-D. Sophomore standing was suggested as a requirement for the course, correspondingly the prerequisite should be completion of 24 credits. The changes were accepted by the initiator of the proposals.

A motion to pre-approve the addition of ENVSTY 201 with the following changes

- change rubric to INTR-D
- change prerequisites to: completion of 24 credits

was seconded and unanimously approved. The proposal will be forwarded to the Academic Affairs Committee.

Dean Grosovsky left the meeting.

Items 3i - 3k were considered together.

3i. **Addition of ENVSTY 210 - Second-Year Seminar: Conflict and Resolution.**

**Motion:** To pre-approve the addition of ENVSTY 210 - Second-Year Seminar: Conflict and Resolution.

**Rationale:** This course is a second year requirement of the proposed Environmental Studies and Sustainability BA.

3j. **Addition of ENVSTY 310 - Third-Year Seminar: Professional Development.**

**Motion:** To pre-approve the addition of ENVSTY 310 - Third-Year Seminar: Professional Development.

**Rationale:** This course is a third-year requirement of the proposed Environmental Studies and Sustainability BA.

3k. **Addition of ENVSTY 410 - Fourth-Year Seminar: Environmental Issues.**

**Motion:** To pre-approve the addition of ENVSTY 410 - Fourth-Year Seminar: Environmental Issues.

**Rationale:** This course is a fourth-year requirement of the proposed Environmental Studies and Sustainability BA.

The discussion focused on the prerequisites for the course and whether the course contents would primarily focus on environmental studies. The following changes were suggested:
• ENVSTY 210: change prerequisites to INTR-D 201 or permission of instructor;
• ENVSTY 310: change prerequisites to INTR-D 201 as pre- or co-requisite

These changes were accepted by the initiator of the proposals.

Dean Groovsky returned to the meeting.

Motions to pre-approve the additions of ENVSTY 210, ENVSTY 310, and ENVSTY410, pending the changes noted to the pre-requisites, was seconded and unanimously approved. These proposals will be forwarded to the Academic Affairs Committee.

The proposal to add a new BA degree in Environmental Studies and Sustainability will be discussed at the December 2015 CSM Senate meeting.

31. Addition of the BA in Environmental Studies and Sustainability (ESS-BA) degree, Phase 2 proposal.
Motion: To pre-approve the addition of BA in Environmental Studies and Sustainability (ESS-BA) degree.
Rationale: The development of the Environmental Studies and Sustainability (ESS) BA will strengthen SFE’s mission of generating and activating knowledge to solve linked watershed and coastal marine environmental problems. The ESS-BA fits perfectly within the mission and values of the University of Massachusetts Boston and the School for the Environment (SFE). The ESS BA touches on all seven of the values: Inquiry, Creativity and Discovery, Transformation, Diversity and Inclusion, Engagement, Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability, Economic and Cultural Development, and its urban commitment. This is illustrated by the synergistic activities with collaborating units outside of the SFE and the College of Science and Mathematics.

4. Other business
   None.

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