Minutes - Mar 7, 2016 - CSM Senate Meeting

Date: Monday, March 7th, 2016  
Time: 2:30pm - 4:00pm  
Location: CSM Dean's Office Conference Room

Members in attendance:  
Catalin Zara, Mathematics, Chair  
Rahul Kulkarni, Physics  
Robert Stevenson, Biology  
Neil Reilly (for Jason Green), Chemistry  
Meng Zhou, SfE  
Walter Buchwald (for Ping Chen), Engineering  
Ming Ouyang (for Wei Ding), Computer Science

Members absent:  
Manickam Sugumaran, Biology

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

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

1. Approval of the December 14, 2015 meeting minutes.  
   A motion to approve the December 14, 2015 meeting minutes was seconded and approved unanimously.

2. Announcements  
   Dean Grosovky made the following announcements:

   - The two new graduate programs in Computational Sciences and Integrated Biosciences have been granted the final approval. The implementation of these programs is currently underway, including recruitment of faculty members to serve as GPD and on the Program Committees. It is anticipated that both programs will start in Fall 2016 with full scale recruitment starting next year. It was noted that the feedback from the BHE and the Board of Trustees for the programs was highly positive.
   - The budget for this year has significant deficits with increased deficits projected for next year. Discussions are currently underway to determine options for meeting the challenges of growth in enrollments coupled with projected reductions in funding.
   - Regarding REAB, it was noted that a Deans' Plan had been put together and is currently being considered. The meeting led to a collaborative consensus among the Dean's to come up with workable alternatives to the current REAB plan.

Dean Grosovsky left the meeting at 3:00 pm.
A team of UMass Boston Computer Science students, coached by Assistant Professor Gabriel Ghinita (CS), won the Northeast Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition and advanced to the Northeast Regional round.

3. New business

3a. **Addition of PHYSIC 899 - Doctoral Dissertation Research.**

   **Motion:** To approve the addition of PHYSIC 899 - Doctoral Dissertation Research.

   **Rationale:** This is a necessary component of the newly established PhD program and will allow students, who have passed sections of the qualifying exam, to begin their doctoral thesis research. The variable number of credits is intended to accommodate working students.

   A motion to approve the addition of PHYSIC 899 was seconded and approved unanimously. The proposal will be sent to the CSM Dean's Office.

   Items 3b - 3c were considered together.

3b. **Addition of ENVSCI 357 - Coastal Watershed Ecology and Conservation.**

   **Motion:** To pre-approve the addition of ENVSCI 357 - Coastal Watershed Ecology and Conservation.

   **Rationale:** Provide a course that provides students with an integrated perspective of the relation between freshwater, coastal, and marine systems.

3c. **Addition of ENVSCI 358 - Coastal Watershed Ecology and Conservation Laboratory.**

   **Motion:** To pre-approve the addition of ENVSCI 358 - Coastal Watershed Ecology and Conservation Laboratory.

   **Rationale:** Provide a course that provides a connection from the coastal open ocean, the coastal estuary, and coastal terrestrial watershed with providing relevant laboratory skills.

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

   A motion to pre-approve the additions of ENVSCI 357 and ENVSCI 358 was seconded and unanimously approved. These proposals will be forwarded to the Academic Affairs Committee.

3d. **Addition of the BA in Environmental Studies and Sustainability (ESS-BA) degree, Phase 2 proposal.**

   **Motion:** To 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.

   Changes were made to the proposal based on feedback from the Major, Honors, and Special Programs Committee. The coordination with CLA for the proposed BA was discussed.
A motion to approve the addition of the BA Environmental Studies and Sustainability (ESS-BA) Degree was seconded and unanimously approved.

3e. **Updated policy on sequencing of CS courses.**
Motion: To approve the proposed policy on CS course sequencing.
Rationale: The Registrar's Office used to enforce prerequisite out-of-order rules, meaning that if course A is a prerequisite for course B and course A was taken after course B, then credit was lost for course B, which could then be retaken. The Registrar no longer does this based on prerequisites and instead is asking us for sequencing rules, which are separate from prerequisites. Each sequencing rule of the form A -> B -> C ... means that no course on the list can be taken after a course to its right has been taken.

A motion to approve the proposed policy on CS course sequencing was seconded and unanimously approved.

Items 3f - 3g were considered together.

3f. **Addition of IT 116 - Introduction to Scripting**
Motion: To pre-approve the addition of IT 116 - Introduction to Scripting.
Rationale: IT majors must take two programming courses to graduate with a BS in IT. Currently, most students take IT 114 and IT 115, Introduction to Java Parts 1 and 2. Java is not a language most IT staff use. Students will be better served by taking programming courses in a scripting language, such as Python.

3g. **Addition of IT 117 - Intermediate Scripting**
Motion: To pre-approve the addition of IT 117 - Intermediate Scripting.
Rationale: IT majors must take two programming courses to graduate with a BS in IT. Currently, most students take IT 114 and IT 115, Introduction to Java Parts 1 and 2. Java is not a language most IT staff use. Students will be better served by taking programming courses in a scripting language, such as Python.

A motion to pre-approve the additions of IT 116 and IT 117 was seconded and unanimously approved. These proposals will be forwarded to the Academic Affairs Committee.

Items 3h - 3i were considered together.

3h. **Revision of IT 244 - Introduction to Linux/Unix. Change in pre-requisites.**
Motion: To pre-approve the change in pre-requisites for IT 244 - Introduction to Linux/Unix.
Rationale: There currently is no prerequisite for this class. IT110 OR MSIS110 are added here to ensure students have basic understanding of IT in general so that they can better understand the content taught in IT244.

3i. **Revision of IT 246 - Introduction to Networks. Change in pre-requisites**
Motion: To pre-approve the change in pre-requisites for IT 246 - Introduction to Networks.
Rationale: There currently is no prerequisite for this class. IT110 OR MSIS110 are added here to ensure students have basic understanding of IT in general so that they can better understand the content taught in IT246.
A motion to pre-approve the revisions of IT 244 and IT 246 was seconded and unanimously approved. These proposals will be forwarded to the Academic Affairs Committee.

3j. Revision of IT 485 - Information Technology Capstone. Change in pre-requisites
Motion: To pre-approve the change in pre-requisites for IT 485 - Information Technology Capstone.
Rationale: IT485 is one of the two capstone courses for BSIT major. Students should only take it at the end of their stay in the program and be well equipped with sufficient knowledge and skills in the IT tracks they study before they take this course.

A motion to pre-approve the change in pre-requisites for IT 485 - Information Technology Capstone was seconded and unanimously approved. These proposals will be forwarded to the Academic Affairs Committee.

Items 3k - 3l were considered together.

Motion: To pre-approve the changes in the course description for CS 109 - Computer Programming for Engineers.
Rationale: CS110 was revised in Spring 2015. CS109 and CS110 become different enough that some engineering students may want to take both CS109 and CS110.

A motion to pre-approve the changes in the course description for CS 109 and CS119 was seconded and unanimously approved. These proposals will be forwarded to the Academic Affairs Committee.

Motion: To pre-approve the changes in the course description for CS 119 - Computer Language Supplement.
Rationale: In Fall 2015, the language of instruction in CS110 was changed from Java to Python.

3m. Policies and procedures for re-admitting CSM students
A discussion of the process for re-admitting CSM students was initiated. This will be an ongoing discussion and no decisions were reached.

4. Other business
None.

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