Report from the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

The UGCC Committee met in the Provost’s conference room at 3:04 p.m. on March 20, 2017

The following proposals passed unanimously in committee and are before you today for your approval.

A. College of Liberal Arts
1. Addition of PSYC 2324

   **Action items:**
   - Addition of New course: PSYC 2324 - Introductory Neuroscience

   **Rationale:** Currently, no introductory level neuroscience course is offered in psychology, despite a number of upper-division courses which are rich in neuroscience content. Currently the same material (e.g., basic introductory level neuroscience curriculum) is being taught in several courses, creating a redundancy. Thus, an introductory course focused specifically on the structure and function of the nervous system would enhance student preparation and facilitate their success in subsequent courses. This course will provide a foundation of neuroscience knowledge that supports upper division courses in neuroscience and will be useful for students pursuing a career in clinical areas or research, health professions, or education.

2. Catalog Changes for Bachelor of Multidisciplinary Studies (BMS) Program

   **Action items:**
   - Any references to University College have been eliminated.
   - The Core Curriculum section has been updated to reflect the new core.
   - Information regarding actual practice—students need to be already admitted to UTEP and their official transcripts need to be already evaluated before BMS advisors create a degree plan, so that the degree plan is as accurate as possible.
   - The BMS offering a wide range of concentrations, not just three in Humanities, Social Sciences and Criminal Justice
   - BMS students do not do a capstone project but need to submit a final paper or project to BMS advisors so that learning outcomes assessments for the program can be completed.
   - What was implicit in the original catalog copy has been explicitly stated, namely, there is no minor for BMS students since there is built-in interdisciplinarity through the concentrations.

   **Rationale:** The Bachelor of Multidisciplinary Studies Program is submitting changes to the catalog that eliminate outdated or redundant information, reflect actual practice, and make explicit certain practices that are currently implicit.
3. **Proposed Changes to BFA in Dance Degree**

**Action items:**
- Elimination of the four one-hour Dance Performance DANC 1151 courses in favor of the newly created DANC 1022 Dance Theatre Lab already in place in the BA degree in Dance.
- Dance Performance DANC 3151, the Junior and Senior BFA practicum class, will remain intact for the more specialized final two years of BFA performance experience.
- Additional elimination of required courses MUSA 1269 or two semesters of MUSA 1151 is proposed as these courses are now redundant having been replaced by a more appropriate course designed for dance majors, DANC 3311 Music for Dancers.

**Rationale:** The substitution of the newly created DANC 3311 for MUSA 1151, MUSA 1269 and MUSA 1311 provides a better music education for our dance majors as it is geared specifically for their needs and backgrounds. As the overall number of hours of the dance degree is being lowered by 3 credit hours, this provides an opportunity to add more dance specific coursework to provide a more meaningful dance degree. DANC 3311 has been approved and has already been added to the BFA. This replacement course was created in collaboration with Music faculty and is supported by the Department of Music (see memo from Music chair), and now serves all course needs in the area of music training for dancers.

**B. College of Business Administration**

1. **Curriculum Change in the HRM Concentration**

**Action items:**

**Before Changes**
- Degree Requirements for Concentration (BEFORE):
  - Total number of hours: 27
  - Required: MGMT 3311
  - Select three courses from MGMT: MGMT 3315, 4304, 4315, 4337
  - Select two (six hours) upper division MGMT courses
  - Select two (six hours) upper division business courses
  - Select one (three hours) upper division non-business course

**After Changes**
- Degree Requirements for Concentration (AFTER):
  - Total number of hours: 27
  - Required: MGMT 3311, MGMT 3312A, MGMT 4337, MGMT 3312B, MGMT 3315, MGMT 4304 and MGMT 4315
  - Select two (six hours) upper division MGMT courses
  - Select one (three hours) upper division business course
Rationale: The Department of Marketing and Management recently introduced lab courses for MGMT 3311 (MGMT 3312A) and MGMT 4337 (MGMT 3312B). The proposed changes were made to allow students with a concentration in HRM to take the two lab courses. The lab courses train students how to use human resource information systems (HRIS). Most employers now expect HRM graduates to understand and use HRIS. Therefore, by requiring all HRM majors to take the lab courses, we are making our students much more marketable for careers in HRM.

2. Modify Prerequisite for FIN 4311A

Action items:
- FIN 4311A require a "D" grade or better in FIN3310 so that it is consistent with the requirement for FIN 4310.

Rationale: Currently, FIN 4311A requires a "C" grade or better in FIN 3310. FIN4311A is also co-requisite class for FIN 4310, Managerial Finance, which requires FIN 3310 w/D grade or better. Our request is to have FIN 4311A require a "D" grade or better in FIN3310 so that it is consistent with the requirement for FIN 4310.

3. Prerequisite change for ACCT 2301, 2302 and QMB 2301

Action items:
For ACCT 2301, 2302 and QMB 2301:
- Include the following statement in the course description: “2.25 or higher GPA required for entry into this course.”
- Add “Departmental Approval” to the existing prerequisites for the courses.

Rationale: The purpose of the proposed change is to institute a minimum GPA requirement for students enrolling in Principles of Accounting I & II as well as Foundations of Business Statistics.

C. College of Engineering

1. Electrical Engineering Curriculum Changes

Action items:
- Revision of the catalog description for the BS in Electrical Engineering (BSEE) to update Educational Objectives, and departmental vision and mission. Also the language describing department concentrations has been updated including the addition of the Biomedical and the Power and Energy Concentrations. As requested by ABET accrediting body.
- Update the BSEE degree plan to reflect all the changes resulting from course additions and changes in this proposal. The new degree plan clarifies the language describing the concentration courses and renames the "Technical Elective" as "Professional Option".
• Modify the Math and Science block to include any of the following courses: CHEM 1305, BIOL 1305, and MATH 2300. Only CHEM 1305 was listed before.
• Revise the catalog description for EE2350 Circuits I and EE2351 Circuits 2 to reflect content enhancements and redistribution of topics.
• Add the prerequisite of CS 1320 "Computer Programming Sci/Engr" to EE2372 "Software Design I" to provide a programming foundation to EE students so EE2372 can focus more on software design. Also use CS 1320 to satisfy core curriculum block 9 instead of COMM 1302.
• Change pre-requisites to EE4220 "Senior Project Laboratory" to streamline sequence for graduation and reflect professional needs in capstone design. The changes include removal of EE3329 and addition of CE2326 & EE3325. Also change the title of EE 4220 to Senior Project Lab I to be consistent with the subsequent course EE 4230. EE 4230 already is Senior Project Lab II
• Remove EE3329 as a pre-requisite for EE4230 to streamline sequence for graduation.
• Creation of the following courses:
  - EE3154 Lab for EE3354
  - EE4185 Lab for EE4385
  This also requires adjustments in EE3354 and EE 4385 prerequisites and co-requisites.
• Creation of undergraduate lab research courses
  - EE3194, EE4194, EE4394 Undergraduate Research.
• Creation of undergraduate lab research courses
  - EE3 193 and EE4193, Service Learning courses.
• Creation of undergraduate lab research courses
  - EE4195 Special Laboratory Topics in EE.
• Creation of a practicum in EE
  - EE4396 Practicum Electrical and Computer Engineering.

Rationale: Multiple changes to the Electrical Engineering curriculum, course descriptions and degree plans.

D. College of Science

1. Change in BS in Geophysics

Action items:
• Addition of 5 new courses in Geophysics
  Introduction to Geophysics GEOP 33XX-A
  Data Interpretation in the Geosciences GEOP 33XX-B
  Applied Geophysics I - Nonseismic GEOP 44XX-A
  Applied Geophysics II - Seismic GEOP 44XX-B
  Field Geophysics GEOP 43XX
Rationale: The Department of Geological Sciences was recently allowed by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to re-instate our B.S. in geophysics degree. We propose to add 5 new courses in geophysics that will help make the degree more relevant and attractive to students and to better reflect the specialties of our current faculty.

2. Changes to BS in Biological Sciences

Action items:
- Addition of courses to the degree plan:
  BIOL 2311-2111-Human Anatomy/Physiology I
  PHYS 1404-Physics II
- Decrease of 3 Upper Division semester credit hours of BIOL, MICRO or ZOOL in order to accommodate Physics II.

Note: Degree plan still requires 42 Upper Division SCH.

Rationale: This proposal updates and aligns the degree plan for BS Biological Sciences with Secondary Education minor and Science 7-12 Concentration with the newly approved degree plan for BS Biological Sciences with Ecology Evolutionary Biology concentration. The Secondary Education degree plan has always aligned to the Eco/Evo degree plan. These updates are required to reflect current practice within the department and to reduce the need for course waivers each semester.

6. Motion to adjourn at 3:55pm made Dr. Moore and seconded by Dr. Herrera.

Submitted Respectfully,

Jacen S. Moore, Chair
Undergraduate Curriculum Committee