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Undergraduate Council Meeting : 2014 : 02 : 18

Undergraduate Council

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New Business

Curricular Matters

1. Proposed New Concentration in Plant Biology. The Biology faculty, represented at the meeting by Melanie Riedinger-Whitmore, have expressed an interest in adding a plant-focused concentration to the curriculum. The curriculum for this concentration would comprise 15-18 credit hours, similar in format to other concentrations that have received approval, and would include a required course of General Botany (BOT3015C). During discussions, members addressed some minor housekeeping steps required on the form.

   Following discussion, Jim MOVED that the Undergraduate Council accept the addition of the new concentration in Plant Biology contingent on revisions. Bonnie SECONDED this motion. Hearing no further discussion, the MOTION WAS APPROVED by vote of the Council.

2. Proposed Change to Biomedical Sciences Concentration. The Biology faculty, represented at the meeting by Melanie Riedinger-Whitmore, have expressed an interest in making General Microbiology (MCB3020C) a required course in the concentration, rather than an elective. They believe that all students who successfully complete this concentration should satisfactorily complete an introductory course in microbiology since it offers an important foundation for further research in the field.

   Following discussion, Jim MOVED that the Undergraduate Council accept the proposed changes as presented. Bonnie SECONDED this motion. Hearing no further discussion, the MOTION WAS APPROVED by vote of the Council.

3. Proposed Changes to Marine Sciences Concentration. The Biology faculty, represented at the meeting by Melanie Riedinger-Whitmore, have expressed an interest in making two changes in this concentration. Marine Biology (BSC3312) would become a required course in the concentration. The Seminar in Marine Biology (a selected topics course, BSC4937) would be considered an appropriate elective for this concentration. The Marine Biology course should be required because it serves as a foundation. Students presently may elect not to take it and still be credentialed in this concentration. Faculty believe that this course should be required, not optional. The Seminar did receive approval in a 2011 proposal as an elective in the Biology program, but it was not included during the 2013 approval of the concentration as the result of an oversight. Discussion ensued about the role of the Tampa-based College of Marine Science to ascertain that this change is in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding already in place.

   Following discussion, Jim MOVED that the Undergraduate Council accept the proposed changes as presented. Bonnie SECONDED this motion. Hearing no further discussion, the MOTION WAS APPROVED by vote of the Council.
4. **Proposed Changes to the Ecology and Evolution Concentration.** The Biology faculty, represented at the meeting by Melanie Riedinger-Whitmore, have expressed an interest in making two changes in this concentration. The first change would require that students take at least one “animal” course and one “plant” course to satisfy the requirements of the concentration. Selections shall be made from an inventory of courses created by the faculty. The second change adds Advanced Invertebrate Zoology (ZOO3205) to the list of approved electives.

Following discussion, Jim **MOVED** that the Undergraduate Council accept the proposed changes as presented. Bonnie **SECONDED** this motion. Hearing no further discussion, the **MOTION WAS APPROVED by vote of the Council.**

5. **New Course Proposal: Plant Taxonomy & Identification (BOT4xxxC).** The Biology faculty, represented at the meeting by Melanie Riedinger-Whitmore, have expressed an interest in adding a course, one that was already included in the Plant Biology Concentration previously approved in paragraph 1, above, contingent on revisions. Committee members offered suggestions, including the use of standard language to describe qualifications of faculty so that an instructor lacking a higher standard (such as a terminal degree) is not prevented from teaching based upon that fact alone. Minor revisions were also suggested on the sample syllabus regarding Learning Outcomes. The proposed instructor should be encouraged to look at the syllabus templates available within the USF System.

Following discussion, Jim **MOVED** that the Undergraduate Council accept the proposed addition of this course, contingent on revisions specified during the meeting. Bonnie **SECONDED** this motion. Hearing no further discussion, the **MOTION WAS APPROVED by vote of the Council.**

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m. Next meeting: March 26, 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jim Schnur
University Librarian