Undergraduate Committee
January 21, 2016
Minutes

Present: Andy Baker, Michelle Dean, Tita Gray, Gary Grudnitski, Jaemin Kim, Roxy Wang
Absent: Steve Gill, ABSC student representative
Guest: David Ely

1. Curriculum deadlines. Curriculum proposals for the 2017-2018 catalog are currently being accepted into the CurricUNET system up until February 29, so please plan accordingly. Any department planning to run a x96 topics course for Fall 2016 should use the old curriculum form (via the manual approval process). These forms must be approved by the department, college curriculum committee, Dean, to Kelly and out of the College by April 11th. Please keep these fast approaching dates in mind with respect to curriculum matters. Please use your respective curriculum committee representative as a resource for new course proposals to expedite getting forms completed correctly and uploaded into CurricUNET.

2. College policy on new online/hybrid course review. David Ely explained that each college has been asked to develop a review process for courses being proposed to be taught (for the first time) in either an online or hybrid modality. The Undergraduate and Graduate Committees both provided input on the template form provided by the Senate. Over winter break, Ely, Michelle Dean (Undergraduate Committee Chair) and Karen Ehrhart (Graduate Committee Chair) used feedback from the curriculum committees to modify the document. Ely presented the updated draft to the committee and noted that when a committee has an online proposal to review, it may bring in an ad hoc member with online teaching experience if the committee feels that it would be helpful in assessing the proposal. Faculty planning on teaching a course for the first time in either a fully online or hybrid modality should complete the form (available on the College of Business Faculty Affairs website) and submit it to their department chair.

3. Prerequisites in the CSUs. Grudnitski analyzed the lower division prerequisites required by the respective business programs in the CSU and found that SDSU required the most of prerequisites (nine total) of any of the CSUs. The prerequisites are in place to ensure that all students have the necessary foundational knowledge needed for success in upper division coursework. The question posed to the committee was do we need all these prerequisites? The more prerequisites, the higher the likelihood that progress rates (i.e., four year graduation rates) will be slowed and we could possibly lose good students to other CSUs.

The committee discussed the business calculus prerequisite in particular. Grudnitski noted that this course (MATH 120) has a high DFW (D, F, and withdrawal) rate, which has led to the MATH department to consider requiring that students pass a pre-qualifying exam prior to being admitted into the class. Both of these issues (high DFW and the entrance exam requirement) have the effect of slowing student progress rates to graduate in a timely fashion (i.e., four years). Some CSUs alternatively require Finite Math instead of Business Calculus. The committee looked at syllabus for the Business Calculus course (MATH 120) and the California Identification Numbering System (C-ID) course descriptor for Finite Math because SDSU does not currently offer a Finite Math course.

Grudnitski and Gray have discussed the problems associated with MATH 120 with the chair of the Math Department. The Math Department has in the past been receptive to considering offering a Finite Math class for our business majors. The Undergraduate Committee voted to have Gray move forward with
continuing talks with the Math Department on this matter. If this change is viewed favorably, the proposed wording for the prerequisite change would read, “Finite Math or an approved calculus course.” This would allow students who have credit for AP Calculus to use their AP credit to fulfill the Math prerequisite. Gray will report back to the committee on her discussions with the Math Department.

4. Acknowledgement of committee service. The committee thanks Tom Coleman for his service to the Undergraduate Committee as ABSC Student Representative. He and Gray are currently seeking a new ABCS rep to serve on the committee for the Spring semester.

The meeting adjourned at 3 p.m. The next meeting of the Undergraduate Committee will be held February 18th at 1 p.m. in the Page Pavilion Board Room (3301D).