Regular Meeting of the Academic Planning Committee  
August 31st, 2022, 3:00 PM, Tate 211

Scribe: John Sieverdes

Chair: Thomas Spade  
Attendance: Tom Kunkle, Von Bakanic, John Sieverdes, George Pothering  
Absent: Dave Boucher, Kathleen DeHaan  
Guests: Mark Del Mastro (AssociateProvost), William Veal (Speaker of the Faculty), Todd McNerney (Associate Dean, School of the Arts), Michael O’Brien (Chair, Department of Music), Allison Welch (Associate Professor, Department of Biology), Marcello Forconi (Chair, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry)

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM.

Discussion on questions for guests: Consider long term goals for the College, list of questions review, strategic plan, fit with other programs, demand on programs, impact on community, changes in faculty lines, growth, will it bring new students who would not come here.

Review of SOA certificates (Guests: McNerney, O’Brien)
Discussion notes: Undergraduate certificates, major would require credit hours and resources. Investigated structure at University of Kentucky that varies based on the major, music theater dance, sing, act. Narrative states focus on one aspect, theater version within (Broadway ensemble is only new course) used for existing majors within music and others meeting requirements. Demand: Between 2010 and 2020, majors gone up 250%. Anderson University has program in music theater (only one in the state). BFA is offered in theater at Coastal Carolina (Theater only not musical theater). 175 programs in country that offer musical theater. Now we have declared theater is lower than 2000 programs, and offering certificate in musical theater may be what students are looking for. May gain some students that would have gone to Coastal or other school due to the emphasis (20 future new estimated increase).

Tom: asked about certificate policy and what it means for undergraduate. Non-degree seekers can get the certificate if they meet prerequisite criteria. The certificate would certify holders to have proficiencies in subject area. May be able to have adult learners if they meet pre-requisites or past and make decision on it. Reviewed by SOA faculty certificate director

Thomas: likely need to be reevaluated and may become a minor in future or concentration. Recruitment: For next fall, when renovations are done. Note: Can’t get a certificate and minor in same subject.

Von: how are you going to structure the department cross communication and organize the certificate requirements? Discussion: Mostly MUSIC is separate compared to the two. There are directors of Dance and Acting to communicate and handle enrollment.

Motion to vote: Tom 1st, George 2nd, to approve certificates for musical theater (all types). Passed by acclamation, no nays.
BA and BS in Environmental and Sustainability Studies Discussion (Guest: Allison Welch)

Discussion: Background of program: Interdisciplinary major in BA and BS in Environmental and Sustainability Studies. A MS already exists: comes from the Minor (HSS and SSM) brings in courses from both schools. We (Allison Welch) have another type of Masters: Leadership for conservation - more business related to differentiate the BS/BA program. There are many certificates, concentration in urbanism conservation. The BA/BS will complement and not overlap to make it distinct.

Aligned with strategic plan completely. Top level interdisciplinary systems thinking interrelationship. Fits with innovation. Stresses experiential learning. The idea for the program came from limited data on demand on program (from parents and calls to admission - anecdotal only). Feasibility study, producing graduates. 240 to 300 in major.

Tom: Asked about students moving over to the program from other majors? Discussion: They think some will move over (Freshman/sophomores), pushing others to double major instead of switching in the next few years.

Von: What is the added stress on faculty as in smaller class sizes and more faculty? Discussion: don't need a lot of new courses (capstone), Mostly in second year (2024). Have a new senior instructor and visiting instructor at this time. Assessed conflict with other departments? Many Biology majors are taking the similarly named minor. Not designing a program to take students away.

What happens if we don't have the enrollments and the assistant professor line. Will there be enough professors to cover classes? There should be a lot of flexibility to accommodate fluctuations. Mark: were there any concerns from other programs? Hard to predict the future, but there is some flexibility

Motion to vote: Tom 1st, George 2nd. Passed by acclamation, no opposed. BA/BS passed

BA in Biochemistry (Guest: Marcello Forconi)

Discussion and background: Current program BS. 76 credit hours - research/ physical chemistry. Looking at students who don't want the rigor and allowing those interested in Biochemistry but don't want to be a biochemist to stay in major. No new lines. One new class - Biophysical Chemistry. Biochemistry, merging into the math toward innovation and less on all the types of chemistry.

Tom: may be more of retention tactic.
George: extra classes of science and research but can build in the BS class for graduate school. Can the BA go to graduate school. Answer: with good advising.
George: When we think of BA programs we think of broader interdisciplinary programs and enhance.
John: Think about de-emphasizing medical school and sell it more on the BA slant and alignment with the pillars of the college to be more interdisciplinary.
William: Was there talk on ACS approval. Discussion: All chemistry discipline will not cover all the ACS. Mirrors more general chemistry and less biochemistry.

Motion to accept program: Tom motion, George 2nd. Passed by acclamation, none opposed, motion passes

All topics Covered
Announcements: One other meeting in September for HEHP new major for Fall 2023, doodle poll will go out.

Dates of programs: October Board of Trustees meeting. President is keen on new Doctorate programs college-wide and majors within SOHS.

Meeting Adjourned. 4:25pm