MCS College Council  
Meeting Minutes | 2016-05-05

Present:
Bohman, Tom  
Braun, Maggie  
Freeland, Rea  
Gilman, Fred  
Leoni, Giovanni  
Ly, Daniith  
McCarl, Sharon  
Meyer, Curtis  
Mitchell, Aaron  
Newstead, Clive  
O’Neil, Stephanie  
Peteanu, Linda

Not Present:
D’Antonio, Jason  
Garoff, Steve

Minutes by Veronica Peet

Aaron Mitchell presents 2 topics for discussion and approval by MCS College Council:

- Proposal to change the course number for Neurobiology of Disease from 03-260 to 03-133.
  - Course should be renumbered from a 200 level to a 100 level as it has no prerequisites.
  - Will be taught by DJ Brasier.
  - Question about if it will be connected with consortium bridging Pitt and making program bigger. Answer, maybe and will be explored in the future.
  - Approved unanimously.

- Proposal to change the Neuroscience elective under the new concentration.
  - Neuroscience major should include other elective courses allowed on other Biological Sciences majors.
  - Reflects an attempt to broaden options for the major.
  - Approved unanimously.

Linda Peteanu presents 1 topic for discussion and approval by MCS College Council:

- New Course Proposal: Chemistry Tech I to Lab I Transition.
  - Given the new request for a 9 unit intro Lab 1 which began F16, this would be a 3 unit differential to catch up students to take Tech 1 who want to become Chemistry majors.
  - Flexibility is needed and it will run as a self-paced course with a lot of work outside of the classroom including meeting with instructors.
  - Main difference between Lab 1 and Tech 1 is an independent research project where a topic is implemented and a talk is given. To simulate this experience, they will generate this idea and present, but will not do the lab work.
  - There will always be an interplay between Tech 1 and Lab 1 in content. This is created because of the impact of the new core curriculum.
  - Too early for a syllabus because it is 2 years until given.
  - Question if it is a wet lab. Answer is no but Lab 1 and Tech 1 are.
  - Question if Chemistry is able to track/benchmark the number of transfers – chemistry or physics major that has to have this to see if the makeup puts transfer students at a disadvantage. Answer is that it is not a disadvantage because students who are unsure are told to take Lab 1.
Will evaluate based on real experiences because there is no real data yet.

Question as to who it would impact. Answer, those who transfer from Biology to Chemistry.

Question if Chemical Engineering still requires Lab 1. Answer is yes.

Approved unanimously.

Tom Bohman presents 2 topics for discussion and approval by MCS College Council:

- **New Course Proposal: Advanced Real Analysis.**
  - 21-723 Advanced Real Analysis would be a new graduate level course in Applied Analysis.
  - Question if Math differentiates 600 and 700 level courses as undergraduate or graduate. Answer is no, both are graduate level course designations in Math.
  - Mathematical Sciences is doing a whole curriculum review this year in applied analysis. The main goal is to prepare graduate students for careers in mathematics but want to be mindful of advanced undergraduates in making the courses accessible.
  - Approved unanimously.

- **New Course Proposal: Introduction to Differential Equations.**
  - 21-632 Introduction to Differential Equations would be a second course in measure integration. Want to be able to have advanced undergrads take these courses but are having trouble getting prepared graduate students in applied analysis. There is a difference in preparation between domestic and international students. Domestic seem to need more background levels.
  - There is a small pool of domestic students who are properly prepared in Applied Analysis and there is large competition to get them.
  - Question to if it provides more opportunities for advanced undergraduates. Answer is yes, and it will be quite popular with a broader audience.
  - Currently 13 students in Honors Analysis, next semester they will take Measure Integration and will have 10. The best students in these classes include undergraduates.
  - Observation that it makes sense to have an intro Differential Equations and intro Applied Analysis. These are good ideas.
  - Approved unanimously

Steve Garoff presents 1 topic for discussion and approval by MCS College Council:

- **New Course Proposal: Introductory Cosmology.**
  - 33-778 would be a set of concepts that all cosmology student need to effectively enter research. Graduate students in cosmology would be required to take it.
  - Development is in capable hands. It will evolve.
  - There will be a meeting in May to evaluate changes to graduate curriculum in physics.
  - Cosmologists have been on hold for 2 years asking for this and need it.
  - Question as to who will teach this besides Rachel Mandelbaum. Answer is she will teach it for the first couple of years.
  - Cosmologists have achieved stature in their research and are now looking back and analyzing their program.
  - Approved unanimously.