

DSC Faculty Meeting

April 1, 2019

DSL 499

Present: Peter Beerli, Gordon Erlebacher, Anke Meyer-Baese, Tomek Plewa, Bryan Quaife, Sachin Shanbhag, Xiaoqiang Wang

Minutes from the February meeting were approved. There was no formal faculty meeting in March 2019.

1. Karey reported on the enrollment numbers for ISC 1057

Spring 2019 online	48 enrolled	100 capacity
Fall 2018 classroom	33 enrolled	55 capacity
Spring 2018 classroom	34 enrolled	55 capacity
Fall 2017 classroom	54 enrolled	55 capacity
Spring 2017 classroom	29 enrolled	50 capacity
Fall 2016 classroom	14 enrolled	55 capacity

There was a lengthy discussion about ISC 1057 and how it benefits the department. The university promotes it as a liberal studies course area “Quantitative/Logical Thinking”. Non STEM majors tend to take this course. STEM majors satisfy this area of Liberal Studies with MAC 2311/2312, calc 1 and 2. Tomek feels this course can be a tool to attract students to this major and feels a face to face offering is a better, more visible option than online. An online course does not have the “draw power” of a face to face class. Sachin suggested we look at evaluations of ISC 1057 online and then revisit this issue of face to face vs. online. Tomek feels the department does not have an identity, the Dean also stated this. Tomek stated just continuing by name is not sufficient.

2. Jack spoke to Karey stating that some of our majors have a strong interest in astrophysics. These students would like to have the opportunity to have a course in Fortran.
3. Karey said that in fall 2019 PHY 2048C, studio physics, will meet for 7 hours weekly. Two days a week the class meets for 3 hours each day and with an additional day for tests. The length of this course overlaps the normal class times of the university and some of our students feel it is too long.
4. Karey reported that the numbers in our core classes continue to grow. Some classes are at capacity of 18 (if given in rooms 152 or 422). Sachin corroborates this and sees it as a positive. The freshmen and sophomores in the program are very strong. Sachin stated that of the 18 people in his class 50% have grades above B.
5. Heidi Salihovic, a Computational Biology major, wanted to add Computational Science as a second major. Arts and Sciences questioned this as there is an overlap of almost 25

credits. Many departments have written statements about limiting overlapping credits. Computational Science and Biology do not have a written policy. Karen McGinnis from Biology suggest both departments should think about this issue. Heidi has been allowed to double major.

6. Practicum, ISC 4943, has been approved for a course that satisfies the university requirement of SIP, Scholarship In Practice formative experience. This helps our students. The course is also approved as an upper division writing course.
7. Meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.