UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING
November 18, 2011
Collaboration Room, Knight Library

PRESENT
Susan Anderson, Andrew Bonamici, Sue Eveland, Dave Hubin, Jennifer Joslin, Loren Kajikawa, Dean Livelybrooks, Karen McLaughlin, Ian McNeely, Ben Smood, Josh Snodgrass, Karen Sprague, Michael Sugar, Li-Shan Chou, and Paul Engelking

ABSENT
Ron Bramhall, Ashley Buchholz, Kathie Carpenter, Loren Kajikawa, Karen McLaughlin, Zachary Taylor, Tom Wheeler, Stephen Frost, and Elizabeth Reis

AGENDA
I. Minutes from November 4, 2011 meeting
II. Human Physiology major and minor-John Halliwill, HPHY
III. Discussion of General Education best practices

MINUTES

I. MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 4, 2011 MEETING
The Chair called for any changes or emendments to the minutes of the previous meeting. There were none.

The motion was made to accept the minutes from the November 4, 2011 meeting.

Moved: Dean Livelybrooks
Seconded: Paul Engelking

The motion to accept the minutes passed unanimously.

II. PROPOSAL TO REVISE HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY MAJOR AND MINOR PROGRAMS
John Halliwill, Associate Professor in Human Physiology, presented the proposal to revise the programs for the Human Physiology Major and Minor programs. He presented a brief background on the evolution of the HPHY program. Currently, there are 8 tenure related faculty and 2 NTTFs teaching in
the program. In 2002 there were 250 declared majors; in 2011 there are 990 undergraduate majors. An annual survey of student interests among the majors shows that:

- 85–90% want healthcare-related careers;
- 25% want to go into physical or occupational therapy;
- 10% want to pursue dentistry or pharmacy.

To address these interests and enhance the major and the minor, the department decided that:

- Language in the catalog needs to be updated;
- Pre-requisites need to be clarified, e.g. drop the requisite of psychology;
- The biology course sequence of BI 210, 211, and 212 needs to be specified in the requisites;
- 200-level courses as pre-requisites for 300-level courses need to be added, e.g. the Medical Terminology course prepares students for shadow practicums;
- Scientific literacy needs to be built by adding biostatistics in biomedical science courses;
- 300-level anatomy lectures and labs are reunited into a 300-level sequence of combined work;
- Increased flexibility in the upper-level division of the program is needed to broaden opportunities;
- The Physiology minor needs to be discontinued to better serve the larger number of declared majors;
- 400-level capstone activities need to be codified and offered frequently enough to accommodate the large number of majors.

The Undergraduate Council raised a number of questions about the proposal:

- What is the projected profile for the major now that it is at 900+ students?  
  *Answer:* The number of majors should be plateauing soon. The rapid increase in declared majors appeared since the department changed its name in 2002 from “Exercise and Movement” to “Human Physiology.”

- How will the broad range of 250 students (in the upper-division level) be handled in Capstone courses?  
  *Answer:* A lot of small-group work is done by peer groups to help weaker students.
Would students benefit from two 400-level Capstone courses?

**Answer:** This wouldn’t work without making the classes too large.

When do students get the liberal arts connection in HPHY courses?

**Answer:** The department views this major as a liberal arts major. General Education supplies the liberal arts foundation for pre-med preparation in this major. Medical ethics is being taught. The liberal arts connection is made at the 200-level courses. The next step is to look at existing 100-level courses and determine if any of them might serve as a General Education science elective.

Why has a key biology course that is prerequisite to basic science courses for pre-meds been removed from the HPHY curriculum?

**Answer:** The number of HPHY required courses (16 credits at the upper level) precludes giving students opportunities to take other courses at the upper-division level. This is covered in curriculum paragraphs in the HPHY curriculum guide on pre-medicine and pre-dentistry requirements.

How does a course in bio-statistics differ from an economic statistics course?

**Answer:** Bio-statistics will not replace mathematical statistics courses. The Bio-Statistics 212 course is primarily an orientation to statistics.

How is advising for the major being handled by the department?

**Answer:** Rick Troxel (retired) serves a half-time advisor. He has created a network of peer advisors. The department is currently searching for a new advisor to replace Rick.

What motivates students to major in HPHY?

**Answer:** Many students are motivated by the desire to help others and gravitate toward working with human disease or human conditions. Other students are driven by the curiosity to learn about how things work.

At the conclusion of the conversation with the Council, John Halliwill left the meeting.

**Discussion**

The Council generally concurred that John had sufficiently answered their questions and were in favor of the proposed changes in the program.

The motion was made that the Undergraduate Council endorse the proposed changes in the Human Physiology Major and Minor.

**Moved:** Dean Livelybrooks  
**Seconded:** Josh Snodgrass

The motion passed unanimously.
III. GENERAL EDUCATION BEST PRACTICES
Karen Sprague presented a background report of current organization of General Education at the UO and the general process used for reviewing General Education programs (2004, 2006). Council Chair noted that the Council needs to identify a project in General Education. Inspired by comments from John Halliwill, it was proposed that surveys of students could be made soliciting honest feedback and critique of the General Education curriculum. It was noted that the Honors College does similar surveys with alumni from the previous five years in the Honors College program. The matter will be taken up in discussion in future meetings.

The next UGC meeting is scheduled for December 2, 2011 at the Collaboration Room in the Knight Library.