CURRICULUM COMMITTEE AGENDA  
January 31, 2013  
Approved Minutes

Members Present: Dr. Mel Schiavelli, Mr. David Falkenstein, Dr. Ellen Fancher-Ruiz, Ms. Vaden Fitton, Ms. Chalet Jean-Baptiste, Ms. Susan Johnson, Mr. Charles Kellermann, Ms. Kathy Lloyd, Ms. Lisa Riggelman-Gross, Dr. Sharon Robertson, Dr. Barbara Saperstone, Mr. Kevin Simons, Ms. Kristine Winner.

Members Absent: Mr. Brian Foley, Dr. Julie Leidig, Dr. Dee Martin, Ms. Esther Perantoni and Ms. Judy Snyder.

Guests: Mr. Keith Brown, Mr. Geoffrey Brown, Dr. Terrance Doyle, Mr. James Gale, Mr. Ernest Packer, Ms. Nan Peck, Ms. Jennifer Rainey, Dr. Jennifer Roberts, and Dr. Bruce Wahl.

College Recorder: Norie Flowers

Minutes of the November 29, 2012 Meeting
The committee approved the minutes of the November 29, 2012, meeting, with one correction. Dr. Robertson briefed Committee members on the status of Curriculum Committee recommendations made at that meeting.

Revise Accounting AAS Curriculum
In response to the Chancellor’s challenge to reduce the number of credits required for graduation, Accounting Cluster Chair Mr. James Gale (ACC, AL), requested approval for the three-credit Social Science elective to be removed as a requirement of the Accounting AAS curriculum. This course was chosen in consultation with the Accounting Advisory Committee because the program requires ECO 120 Survey of Economics, which also is a Social Sciences course. Removal of the elective will reduce the total number of credits from 69 to 66.

The Curriculum Committee approved the proposal to remove the three-credit Social Science elective from the Accounting AAS, effective Fall 2013.

New General Education Elective Category and Two New General Education Courses
Dr. Bruce Wahl (MTH, AL), Chair of the Council for General Education, presented three recommendations to the Committee for approval:

- **Add BIO 150 Introductory Microbiology to the Physical and Life Sciences/Mathematics category of General Education Electives**: BIO 150 is a course taken by health sciences majors and other students interested in the relationships of microorganisms to individual and community health.
  - Questions from Committee members focused on the process for moving courses to the general education elective category, whether competencies were developed, and whether competencies would be connected to Student Learning Outcomes/SLOs. Dr. Wahl explained that the reviews of the disciplines are mapped to the general education goals, which then move to the SLOs.
  - A motion was made to accept the proposal to add BIO 150 to the Physical and Life Sciences/Mathematics category of General Education Electives and was approved.

- **Add a new category of General Education Electives labeled “Other General Education Electives” with a statement following the heading**: “These courses may be used as general education electives, but not to meet requirements for the categories listed above.” Dr. Wahl explained that this broadens the category of
optional courses, to allow students to take courses that would transfer well and would broaden their education. There are many courses available at NVCC that transfer to other colleges easily, but do not fit into the categories as defined in the course catalogue. Examples include 100-level world languages, PED activity courses, and painting, all skill-based. The Council voted unanimously to support the Environmental Science faculty’s request to add this course to the General Education Electives.

- Comments from Committee members included adding a sentence to the mapping instruction (for transfer degrees) that the courses are aligned with the educational objectives of NOVA; and a recommendation that the “other” courses be looked at during counseling.
- A motion was made to accept the proposal adding a new category of General Education Electives labeled “Other General Education Electives” and was approved.

- Add ENV 136 Survey of Environmental Concerns to the “Other General Education Electives” category: Dr. Wahl indicated that ENV 136 focuses on the scientific and policy concepts that are involved in current environmental issues and is transferrable to other colleges (including George Mason University). It is not a lab science, so it does not fit in the Physical and Life Sciences/Mathematics category. The Council voted unanimously to support the Environmental Science faculty’s request to add this course to the General Education Electives.
  - A motion was made to accept the proposal adding ENV 136 Survey of Environmental Concerns to the other general education electives category and was approved.

**Revise Automotive Maintenance & Light Repair Curriculum**

Faculty members Mr. Keith Brown and Mr. Jeffrey Brown presented several proposals to delete and add courses as follows, to be effective the Summer of 2013:

**Delete:**

- **AUT 236 Automotive Climate Control (4 cr):** AUT 111 Automotive Engines I would be added in place of AUT 236 Automotive Climate Control to better provide general maintenance information to the students. AUT 236 is currently not available to all Dual Enrolled students in the High School settings.

- **ENG 111 College Composition I or ENG 131 Technical Report Writing I (3 cr):** English is no longer a requirement for the certificates and employers will not pay for the general education courses. Many students complete all the automotive courses but do not take the English course and, as a result, they do not graduate with the certificate.
  - Some Committee members felt that English 111 was important for all college students. Mr. Brown explained that the students pursuing this certificate program will not attend college in the conventional way, and the English requirement has been a “speed bump” for students. The certificate is aimed at providing the industry with the basic level of technology.
  - A motion was made to accept the proposal to delete AUT 236 Automotive Climate Control and ENG 111 College Composition I or ENG 131 Technical Report Writing and was approved.
Add:

- **AUT 130 Intro to Auto Mechanics (3 cr)**: This course will take the place of AUT 100 Introduction to Automotive Shop Practices. AUT 130 provides the same information as AUT 100 but adds laboratory hours to provide hands on exposure to the automotive lab.

- **AUT 111 Automotive Engines I (4 cr)**: This course will take the place of AUT 236 Automotive Climate Control to better provide general maintenance information to the students. AUT 236 is currently not available to all Dual Enrolled students in the High School settings.

- **SDV 100 College Success Skills (1 cr)**: SDV 100 is now a required course for all certificates above 16 credits.

- **AUT 285 Auto Service and Practical Applications Capstone (4 cr) as an “or” to the existing AUT 266 Auto Alignment, Suspension and Steering (4 cr)**: This provides all students with the opportunity to receive the certificate based on their own abilities and needs.
  - A motion was made to accept the proposal, with correction to typo in the House Bill 1184, to add AUT 130 Intro to Auto Mechanics, AUT 111 Automotive Engines, SDV 100 College Success Skills and AUT 285 Auto Service and Practical Applications Capstone as an “or” to the existing AUT 266 Auto Alignment, Suspension and Steering and was approved.

**Proposed AUT Course in Hybrid Electric Vehicle Technology**

Mr. Ernest Packer (AUT, AL) requested approval for the creation of a Hybrid Electric Vehicle Technology course which will keep NOVA’s automotive students up-to-date on the latest automotive technology and will make the students more marketable when seeking employment in the automotive field. In 2012, the greater Washington, D.C. area ranked fourth in hybrid vehicles sold per 1000 households, creating the need for HEV trained technicians for non-dealership automotive repair facilities.

NOVA is one of only two colleges in the Commonwealth of Virginia to offer courses to repair and service hybrid electric vehicles. There is a course titled “Introduction to Alternative Fuels and Hybrid Vehicles – AUT 230” in the VCCS course catalog. The proposed Hybrid Electric Vehicle Technology course will be more in-depth than the AUT 230 course. The Hybrid Electric Vehicle Technology course will cover safety, theory, diagnostics, and repairs procedures, including removing and replacing components such as the HEV batteries and inverters. Moreover, this new course will include topics covered in the Automotive Electronics – AUT 245 course, giving students the opportunity to substitute the Hybrid Electric Vehicle Technology course for Automotive Electronics course.

Mr. Packer stated that the timing was right to introduce this course and it has the approval of the Science, Technology, and Business Dean, the Automotive Technology Cluster, the Alexandria Generic Automotive Advisory Committee, and support from J. Sergeant Reynolds Community College.
  - A motion was made to accept the proposal for the creation of a Hybrid Electric Vehicle Technology course and was approved.

**Proposed CST Course in Introduction to Communication Theory**

Ms. Jennifer Rainey, Cluster Chair of the Communication Studies and Theatre Arts, requested approval to introduce a new course in communication theory to the curriculum. This proposed
course has been developed at the request of the Communication Department at George Mason University, as a gateway course and prerequisite for students seeking to major or minor in Communication Studies. There are a significant number of transfer students who experience a delay in taking upper division courses because they have not yet taken the required theory course prerequisite (at George Mason University, this is COMM 200). This course will allow students to fill this curricular gap prior to their transfer and choose an elective of their choice after they transfer. The course will be offered initially in an online format, and if there are increased enrollments, in a traditional classroom setting. The course was approved unanimously by the CST Cluster.

- Committee member comments included the suggestion to rewrite the course objectives to avoid possible redundancies. It was also recommended that transfer information be taken out of the course objectives. Members suggested that English be recommended before taking this course – that more information could be added to the course purpose which would encourage taking English prior to this course.
- A motion was made to accept the proposal to introduce a new course in communication theory to the curriculum and was approved. Dr. Robertson will work with Ms. Rainey on the catalogue wording.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 28 with the venue to be determined.