The meeting began at 8:00 a.m.

The Chair welcomed the members of the Committee.

Consent Agenda:

The following items remained on the Consent Agenda and passed unanimously.

2. Dept. of Electrical and Computer Engr. – Changing Restrictions/Credits in a Course
   a. ECE 3442 (Electromagnetic Waves)
   b. ECE 4241 (System Design 1)

3. Dept. of Mechanical & Aerospace Engr. – Changing Graduation Requirements
   a. Aerospace Engineering
   b. Mechanical Engineering

4. Department of Marine and Environmental Systems – Changing Graduation Requirements
   a. Oceanography, Physical Oceanography concentration

5. College of Aeronautics – Changing Graduation Requirements
   a. Aviation Meteorology Flight Option
   b. Aviation Meteorology

6. Department of Biological Sciences – Changing Restrictions/Credits in a Course – BIO 4301 (Cell Biology)

7. School of Psychology
   b. Adding a New Course to the Curriculum – PSY 3551 (Introduction to Child Advocacy)
   c. Changing Restrictions/Credits in a Course – PSF 4562 (Forensic Clinical Psy.)

Agenda Discussion Items

The following item was discussed and passed unanimously, as amended.

1. Department of Mathematical Sciences – Changing Restrictions/Credits in a Course
   MTH 3301 (Finite Differences and Finite Elements)

In light of the passage of MTH 3210 (Introduction to Partial Differential Equations and Applications) during the April 2010 meeting, which is to replace MTH 3201 (Boundary Value Problems), it was noted that a number of courses would require prerequisite changes, such as the one presently before the Committee. It was suggested that these courses keep MTH 3201 as a prerequisite for the time being and add “or MTH 3201” until current students who have already taken MTH 3201 and do not need to take MTH 3210 have completely passed through the system. The thought was that this would obviate the need to process a number of prerequisite/co-requisite forms, particularly in departments where this would affect a large number of students. Thus it was suggested
to amend the form for MTH 3301 to effect a “MTH 3201 or MTH 3210” prerequisite. The Department of Mathematical Sciences agreed to the change.

The following item was discussed and approved unanimously, as amended.
7. School of Psychology
   a. Adding a New Course to the Curriculum – PSY 3513 (Psychological Research Methods and Statistics 2)

There was a question as to whether 15 contact hours for a laboratory course was sufficient to award one credit hour for the course. Or, as pertinent to PSY 3513, whether 15 laboratory contact hours and 45 lecture contact hours was sufficient for a four-credit-hour course. It was thought that three laboratory contact hours per week for a one-credit course, and four laboratory contact hours per week for a two-credit hour course, were the norm, and it was asked if there was in fact a standard. This prompted a discussion on what defines a credit hour. Dr. Monica Baloga (Assistant Provost for Accreditation) was present to address this issue. She read a letter from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) that indicated that the U.S. Department of Education is trying to create a definition for a credit hour. Because of this, she noted accrediting agencies may also be looking at this, and that this was a good time to have such a discussion. It had been noted that the definition in the University Catalog was not clear as applied to laboratory courses, and that it has appeared to have changed over the years. In response, it was noted that the definition probably changed to better accommodate online courses and the method by which they are presented. It was asked if labs were “created equal,” and it was agreed they were not. It was noted that some lab sessions could be considered “soft” while others might be more rigorous or time-consuming. However, in response, it was suggested that if the labs were to be differentiated this way, then the same analysis should be applied to lectures since a similar distinction could also be made to those types of courses. Dr. Hadjilogiou (Dept. of Electrical and Computer Engr.) suggested the Committee table this discussion until a future meeting, allowing time for a search to be conducted as to how other universities, particularly those in the southeast, define their credit hours. This was agreed to, and Dr. Hadjilogiou agreed to undertake this task.

As to PSY 3513, the course was amended to include 30 laboratory contact hours, which the Committee considered to be the minimum to award one hour of credit.

Other (Informational):
1. CHM 4700 (Physical Biochemistry) – program change request withdrawn

The Chair noted that while this course and the concomitant program change for the Chemistry option within Biochemistry was passed by the Committee during the April 2010 meeting, the change would have resulted in differing required credit hours for the Chemistry and Biological Sciences options. Since this is not permitted under a single major code, the Department of Chemistry drafted a memo dated July 8, 2010 indicating it was withdrawing the requested change, and would instead make CHM 4700 a restricted elective within the Chemistry option for Biochemistry.
2. Next UGCC Chair (Fall 2011 – Spring 2013)

The Chair announced that Mr. Marshall Jones (School of Psychology) has agreed to succeed Dr. Mark Archambault (Dept. of Mechanical and Aerospace Engr.) as Chair of the Committee starting in Fall 2011, and that the request for this change has been approved by the Provost’s Office.

Lastly, the Chair noted that he forgot to put the schedule for the Committee’s meetings on this month’s agenda, and that he would send an email with that schedule and include it on next month’s agenda.

Our next meeting is Friday, September 24 at 8:00 a.m. in the Physical Sciences conference room. Agenda items are due Friday, September 17.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Archambault – Chair