

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE
2018-19 Meeting #2, September 17, 2017

Present: David Pimentel, Cher Hendricks, Liz Brandt, Diane Prorak, Taylor Raney, Robert Heinse, Tara Hudiburg, Sanjay Sisodiya, Mark Nielsen, Madi Bergeman

Absent: Dean Panttaja, Jesse Smith, Bert Baumgaertner, Jean-Marc Gauthier, Irene Ogidan, Julie Beeston

Others present: Grace Miller, Dwaine Hubbard, Rebecca Frost, John Crepeau, Linda Campos, Torrey Lawrence, Biljana Jovanovska, Mark Warner

Chairperson Raney opened the meeting at 3:30. The UCC1 minutes were approved with one abstention. Raney elected to move the engineering items to the top.

UCC-19-005 College of Engineering

Biological Engineering

John Crepeau explained that the college is cleaning up requirements in preparation for an upcoming accreditation visit. The Biological Engineering changes were approved.

Civil and Environmental Engineering

Crepeau explained that the lab content is being absorbed into the courses and Mark Nielsen noted that the Math department is doing the opposite: separating lab content into individual courses. Chairperson Raney noted that the description still references a lab. The committee elected to table the proposal, pending clarification. Crepeau returned with authorization from the department to strike the lab language.

Cher Hendricks noted that the Engineering credit totals are largely inaccurate because ENGL 101 is left off of the degree maps, despite being required of all students.

It was noted that “WS 418” appeared in a course list, but does not exist. Crepeau spoke with the department and determined that it should be removed.

Crepeau noted that the changes to the Geological Engineering minor would reduce the total number of credits and streamline the course requirements. The Civil Engineering items were approved.

Chemical and Materials Engineering

Crepeau noted that the department has a couple new faculty members, equipped to offer the previously dormant course CHE 460/560 Biochemical Engineering. He also noted that the Chemical/Bioscience requirement was being dropped from the major in order to reduce credits. The changes were approved.

Electrical and Computer Engineering

The changes were approved unanimously.

Industrial Technology

Rebecca Frost noted that the General Education requirements haven’t been coded into the major totals because there is significant overlap. The changes were approved unanimously.

Mechanical Engineering

The changes were approved unanimously.

UCC-19-004 College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences

English, Politics and Philosophy

Mark Warner introduced UCC-19-004. He asked to table English and Politics and Philosophy until another meeting, as he didn't have all the background information.

History

Taylor Raney noted that the changes to HIST 419 appeared significant enough that it might represent a new course. The committee charged the Registrar's Office with assigning a new number. The course was approved.

Journalism, Advertising, and Mass Media

Warner noted that the minors are being updated to broaden course offerings. Robert Heinse noted that with these changes, there will be no explicit reference to "advertising" in the Advertising minor course list. Cher Hendricks noted that the enrollment numbers in the Advertising minors are low and that all JAMM minors overlap significantly; she suggested it might be more efficient to reduce the number of minors.

Warner noted that the Storytelling course is new as of 2017 and being plugged in to curricula wherever it is relevant. He explained that the University received a significant gift from a JAMM alumnus with the stipulation that some kind of storytelling workshop be made available; the course allows the University to fulfill this request and offer students credit for their participation. Warner defined it as: "an entity that's now been subsidized."

The JAMM courses were approved unanimously.

Modern Languages and Cultures

Warner explained that students are testing into higher-level language courses, while their degree audits still require the lower versions because of the out-of-date vertical relationships. It was noted that the Chinese vertical credit changes reference courses that do not yet exist. The changes were approved unanimously, pending additional paperwork for the new courses.

Psychology and Communication Studies

Warner noted that there is a lot of overlap between Sociology and Psychology methods courses. The changes to the Psychology minor allow students with a Sociology major to count the methods course they've already taken. The changes were approved unanimously.

Theatre Arts

Hubbard asked if the course was intended to be repeated more times, as the credit designation was increasing. Liz Brandt noted that the major is not changing, so the department is presumably aiming for students to take fewer – more intense – instances of the course. The changes were approved unanimously.

UCC-19-006 Academic Calendar

Hubbard introduced the changes. Mark Nielsen noted that it was important to start at the same time as WSU because of the cooperative program.

Liz Brandt noted that the academic calendar is administrative and suggest it be made the sole responsibility of the Registrar's Office. She noted that the planning calendar only requires UCC approval because it is listed in the Faculty Staff Handbook. She also noted the recent shift from spread pay to standard pay.

The changes to the calendar were approved by majority vote with 2 nays and 1 abstention.

Discussion

Hendricks noted that the University processes thousands upon thousands of course waivers every year, rather than updating curricula. She also suggested that anyone processing catalog proposals be mindful of their reasons. For example, appealing to a new market is a good reason to add a course, but appealing to new faculty's area of expertise is not. She said: "we need to be looking more globally," as little changes can have very large impact.

Brandt noted the administrative cost of processing change paperwork, both at the Registrar's Office and the committee itself.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55. UCC will reconvene on Monday, September 24.

Grace Miller

UCC Secretary