

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE
2020-21 Meeting #8, November 2, 2020

Members (those present in bold, * indicates voting member):

Jim Connors, Chair*

Mark Adams*

Bert Baumgaertner*

Julie Beeston*

Lindsey Brown

Jean-Marc Gauthier*

Kalynn Hanley*

Aleksandra Hollingshead*

Mark Nielsen*

Dean Panttaja

Diane Prorak*

Francesca Sammarruca

Steven Shook*

Sanjay Sisodiya*

Bronte Sone*

Guests Present: Ro Afatchao, Ben Barton, Brian Blanchfield, Katrina Eichner, Rebecca Frost, Amy Kingston, Alyson Roy, Mark Warner, Brian Wolf

I. Chairperson Jim Connors called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

II. The minutes from October 26, 2020 were approved.

III. Announcements and Communications - none

IV. Old Business

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-014

Items under consideration: LARC 565 and LARC 566

Discussion: These proposals have been pulled. According to Graduate Council, the department can use the existing common course number LARC 599.

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-019

Items under consideration: Learning Outcomes Discussion

Discussion: This discussion was postponed to the end of the meeting, time permitting.

V. New Business

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-020

Items under consideration: Psychology and Communication Studies department name change

Speaker: Ben Barton

Discussion: They would like to drop the word "Studies" from the end of the department name. This has been in discussion since 2016. The reasons are that the Communication major is returning and the department feels like the current name is redundant. The proposed name will be more streamlined. Jim Connors asked why it is "Communication" and not "Communications." Ben Barton replied that Communication is more about interpersonal communication and such, whereas Communications has more to do with how the communication takes place (e.g., which media is being used).

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-020

Items under consideration: English B.A. and B.S.

Speaker: Brian Blanchfield

Discussion: There are five emphases within English, and this proposal impacts two of them: Literature and Creative Writing. Brian Blanchfield explained the changes, which are relatively straight forward.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-020

Items under consideration: History B.A.

Speaker: Alyson Roy

Discussion: There were emphases within the History program, but they do not have the staffing to cover enough classes routinely to allow students to graduate on a timely basis. Thus, they are streamlining the curriculum.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-020

Items under consideration: RELS 442

Speaker: Alyson Roy

Discussion: They are still actively teaching this course, but it was mistakenly inactivated.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-020

Items under consideration: RELS 447

Speaker: Alyson Roy

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-020

Items under consideration: RELS 311

Speaker: Mark Warner

Discussion: They are trying to eliminate some cross-listings to clean things up. This will remain as an option in Sociology, but the number is changing to SOC 211.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-020

Items under consideration: Religious Studies Minor

Speaker: Mark Warner

Discussion: This is just a change to remove RELS 311 and add SOC 211 in its place.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-020

Items under consideration: IS 426

Speaker: Ro Afatchao and Mark Warner

Discussion: They are eliminating the Introduction to Africana Studies course and creating this as a 400-level capstone course that will be open to AFST minors and IS majors.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-020

Items under consideration: IS 322

Speaker: Ro Afatchao

Discussion: This course was developed some years ago and focused on international organizations. Now, the course has evolved to include the organizations, their structures, and relevant laws.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-020

Items under consideration: International Studies B.A. and B.S.

Speaker: Ro Afatchao

Discussion: This degree relies heavily on courses from other departments. Thus, they must shift the curriculum often. The proposed change should help with that and eliminate bottlenecks that made it difficult for students to meet their requirements. It shifts more of the core required classes to in-house (IS) classes and it removes the specific emphases. It also embeds the International Experience requirement into the Regional Emphasis Electives of the degree. Sanjay Sisodiya asked about the rationale for removing STAT 251 as a requirement. Ro Afatchao replied that most of the departments in CLASS no longer require that course, particularly for a B.A. Sanjay asked how Degree Audit handles the advisor-approved electives. Will this proposal require substitution and waiver forms? Rebecca Frost responded that this proposal allows for a minor or 12 credits of advisor-approved elective courses. For students who choose a minor, it will fulfill the requirement automatically. For those who choose elective courses, they would need the substitution and waiver forms. However, Rebecca and Ro both think most students will choose a minor. Jim Connors asked if they have considered the new International Agriculture minor. Ro said yes, they will likely add that in the future. They already have students interested in pursuing that minor.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-020

Items under consideration: AFST 101

Speaker: Mark Warner

Discussion: This relates to the addition of IS 426 as discussed above.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-020

Items under consideration: Africana Studies minor

Speaker: Mark Warner

Discussion: They are reworking the curriculum to include the AFST 101/IS 426 changes discussed above.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-020

Items under consideration: Sociology and Anthropology department name change

Speaker: Brian Wolf

Discussion: In 2017, the department voted to change a Sociology emphasis of Criminology to its own degree. Along with that, they proposed a departmental name change to Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminology. However, faculty had not been consulted so the proposal was pulled. After working with faculty, the name they want is Culture, Society and Justice. That name reflects the interdisciplinary nature of the department's work. Jim Connors asked if this name is in use at other programs around the country. Brian Wolf answered that it's relatively uncommon to have these three programs in one department. However, University of Chattanooga uses this same name. They are not concerned about students finding the department since the degree finders are generally accurate and effective. Jim asked if there are other stakeholders who were consulted. Brian responded that they do not have an advisory board or any other stakeholders, but they did consult with other departments in the college.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-020

Items under consideration: ANTH 413

Speaker: Katrina Eichner

Discussion: This is in response to recent faculty changes. This course is an added course on Health, Illness, and Society. They are dropping ANTH 412 (Human Variation) and creating this in its place. The change is partially motivated by the fact that Human Variation was rooted in problematic assumptions. This topic gets at many of the same issues in a more appropriate way. Lindsey Brown suggested adding a blurb about additional work being required for graduate credit to all joint-listed courses. Katrina Eichner agreed.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-020

Items under consideration: ANTH 434

Speaker: Katrina Eichner

Discussion: This is a replacement for a Prehistory course that no current faculty are qualified to teach.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-020

Items under consideration: ANTH 452

Speaker: Katrina Eichner

Discussion: The department just hired a bioarchaeologist, so this course fits into their expertise. They have offered it in the past as a Special Topic and it was well-received.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-020

Items under consideration: ANTH 456

Speaker: Katrina Eichner

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-020

Items under consideration: ANTH 570, ANTH 571, ANTH 572

Speaker: Katrina Eichner

Discussion: The way they currently handle graduate seminars adds to an instructor's workload without giving credit as part of their official courseload. The department has mapped out the next four semesters to ensure faculty can cover these new seminars. It will help graduate students have a cohort feel when they enter the program. Jim Connors is concerned about low-enrollment courses. Do they have enough students to keep the enrollment high enough on these classes? Katrina Eichner answered yes, they would have two years of students in each class due to the rotating schedule. They are also adding these as required courses, so enrollment should not be an issue.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-020

Items under consideration: ANTH 230, ANTH 412, ANTH 418, ANTH 436, ANTH 443, ANTH 512, ANTH 536, ANTH 543

Speaker: Katrina Eichner, Mark Warner, Brian Wolf

Discussion: The department lost the faculty member who taught Prehistory, which explains many of these inactivations. To work around that, they are incorporating some of the material into their introductory-level classes and they are allowing students to take some of the Prehistory courses in the History department. Mark Warner added context: there have been almost no changes to the Anthropology program in decades. These changes address that fact, plus the near-50% turnover in faculty. Brian Wolf explained that they have walked through the next four years to ensure the current faculty can teach these courses on a regular basis.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-020

Items under consideration: ANTH 416

Speaker: Katrina Eichner

Discussion: This fixes a prerequisite error that has been in the system for some time.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-020

Items under consideration: ANTH 430

Speaker: Katrina Eichner

Discussion: They are changing the name and description of this course to reflect the fact that it's taught as a theory, ethics, and history course. This course does not cover methodology like the old title implied. Jim Connors asked whether the actual content is changing. Katrina Eichner replied that the content is not changing, they are just trying to better reflect the content that is being taught.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-020

Items under consideration: Anthropology B.A. and B.S.

Speaker: Katrina Eichner

Discussion: They noticed diminishing enrollments, which was in part due to high overall credit requirements in comparison to other majors in the College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences. This proposal reduces the number of overall required credit hours. It also maintains some choices for students while ensuring they take courses in all the subdisciplines and ensuring the department can

offer all the necessary courses with current faculty numbers. In addition, the department is updating their required capstone course. The one previously used as a capstone was more of a methods class.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-020

Items under consideration: Anthropology minor

Speaker: Katrina Eichner

Discussion: Again, the department was requiring a relatively high overall numbers of credits so they are reducing that. Jim Connors asked about the minimum number of credit hours for a minor. Rebecca Frost replied that 18 is the minimum.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-020

Items under consideration: Archaeological Technician Academic Certificate

Speaker: Katrina Eichner

Discussion: Again, the credit requirements were high for a certificate. They are reshaping it to reduce the overall credit requirements and to ensure it builds an appropriate skill set to help students with their career search. Steven Shook asked if this meets Office of Personnel Management (OPM) requirements. After a discussion about what that means, Mark Warner replied that this probably does not meet those requirements. They have not looked too closely at that in the past. The intent is to meet the needs of the specific field of Archaeology. Steve thinks meeting those requirements might help them pull in additional students who are currently in the field. Mark thinks that is a conversation for offline that might be worth having. Sanjay Sisodiya is concerned about hidden prerequisites. If a course is required for the certificate and it has prerequisites, those need to be reflected.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-020

Items under consideration: SOC 211

Speaker: Brian Wolf

Discussion: The intent is to add a lower-division course that students can take in their first and second year. Rebecca Frost clarified whether it should be equivalent to SOC 311 – the answer is yes, so she added that to the proposal.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-020

Items under consideration: SOC 201

Speaker: Brian Wolf

Discussion: This is a name change to reflect changes in the field about how these issues are discussed. Bert Baumgaertner asked if there was a similar change last year, as well. Brian said yes, it was changed last year from “Diversity and Stratification” and now they are changing it again. They are also removing the cross-listing. Aleksandra Hollingshead confirmed the general shift in language away from Diversity and Inclusion.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-020

Items under consideration: Diversity and Inclusion Academic Certificate

Speaker: Brian Wolf

Discussion: This is a similar change to SOC 201. The field is moving away from the phrase “Diversity and Inclusion.”

Outcome: Passed unanimously

Old Business (continued)

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-019

Items under consideration: Learning Outcomes

Speaker: Lindsey Brown

Discussion: Amy Kingston explained the essential question: Does the UCC want to be notified or vote if a program is just adding or adjusting learning outcomes, with no other changes to the program. Bert Baumgaertner asked what the benefit is to increased oversight of learning outcomes. He is not sure whether additional oversight is needed, since they are already available for review in the catalog and they are reviewed by Assessment. Lindsey Brown mentioned that at previous institutions where she worked, the curriculum committees spent extensive time reviewing learning outcomes. That does not seem to happen here, where the focus is more on content and course descriptions. Jim Connors thinks UCC agendas are already quite full and he does not think the UCC needs to micromanage learning outcomes. Aleksandra Hollingshead agrees. Steven Shook asked questions about how the current/past approval process for learning outcomes works. Learning outcomes should fall under faculty, so should a staff member from Assessment or the Registrar’s Office be able to kick back a proposal due to questions about learning outcomes. He and Lindsey had a conversation about which committee should be vetting learning outcomes. He referenced the Faculty Staff Handbook (section 1640.87). There was also a discussion about what information about learning outcomes was previously included on our paper forms. Mark Nielsen thinks the answer to what role the UCC should have in vetting learning outcomes is “None.” Mark agrees that someone should have oversight of learning outcomes, and the FSH gives that authority to the University Teaching Committee. Essentially, we cannot change the process without adjusting the FSH appropriately. There was a discussion about the University Assessment Committee and whether it is officially sanctioned. Diane Prorak is on that committee and spoke to its broad scope. At no point do they approve or vote on specific learning objectives. Mark Nielsen mentioned that he is joining that committee, as well.

VI. Additional Questions or Discussion - none

VII. Chairperson Jim Connors closed the meeting at 4:50 pm. UCC will reconvene on Monday, November 9, 2020.

Amy Kingston
UCC Secretary