

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE
2020-21 Meeting #10, November 16, 2020

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

Jim Connors, Chair*	Jean-Marc Gauthier*	Diane Prorak*
Mark Adams*	Kalynn Hanley*	Francesca Sammaruca
Bert Baumgaertner*	Aleksandra Hollingshead*	Steven Shook*
Julie Beeston*	Mark Nielsen*	Sanjay Sisodiya*
Lindsey Brown	Dean Panttaja	Bronte Sone*

Guests Present: Jerry Fairley, Rebecca Frost, Amy Kingston, Dave Tank, Mark Warner

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

II. The minutes from November 9, 2020 were approved.

III. Announcements and Communications - none

IV. Old Business - none

V. New Business

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-024

Items under consideration: BIOL 213

Speaker: Dave Tank

Discussion: This is a revision of the title and course description to reflect what the current instructors teach in this course. They are also changing the prerequisites.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-024

Items under consideration: BIOL 425

Speaker: Dave Tank

Discussion: This had been designated as a ST: Special Topic class and they do not want it to be limited in that way. It is changing to a subtitleable course instead. It has also been added to the list of Senior Experience options for three of their majors.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-024

Items under consideration: BIOL 454/CHEM 452

Speaker: Dave Tank

Discussion: There was a discussion about the CHEM cross-list having a different name. Mark Nielsen is confident it will be alright with Chemistry to change the name so it matches, since CIM requires all joint- and cross-listed courses to have matching titles.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-024

Items under consideration: BIOL 487/587

Speaker: Dave Tank

Discussion: Bert Baumgaertner is concerned that this sounds like a relatively large change. How much of the content is changing? Dave Tank replied that the content is largely similar but the specific examples used have a slightly different focus.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-024

Items under consideration: Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (B.S.M.B.B.)

Speaker: Dave Tank

Discussion: The depar voted to drop this to streamline their majors since this was suffering from declining enrollment and had significant overlap with some of their other majors.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-024

Items under consideration: Medical Sciences (B.S.)

Speaker: Dave Tank

Discussion: The changes to the Biology degrees are all minor modifications to the majors to keep the elective lists updated, add in some writing requirements, and add a few classes to the curriculum. Bert pointed out that they have not taught PHIL 367: Global Justice in many years, so at some point they might want to remove that course and find a better substitute.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-024

Items under consideration: Microbiology (B.S.Microbiol.), Biochemistry (B.S.Biochem.), Biology (B.A. and B.S.)

Speaker: Dave Tank

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-024

Items under consideration: CHEM 101, CHEM 111, CHEM 112, CHEM 112L

Speaker: Mark Nielsen

Discussion: These changes make the lectures and labs corequisites since it is important to have them at the same time. They used to be taught as one 4-credit course. Since separating them, some students have begun to take the lecture one semester and the lab in a subsequent semester. That is not how they are designed to be taken. In addition, they are adding CHEM 111L as a prerequisite for CHEM 112L. Bert Baumgaertner asked whether this corequisite will prevent students who have taken an AP Chemistry course but still need the lab from taking it by itself. Mark Nielsen replied that they might need an override from the department. Steven Shook asked about the Science Outreach section of CHEM 101. He wonders if this change will eliminate that outreach section. Mark is unsure and thinks perhaps they

overlooked doing an outreach lab. Julie Beeston asked if the lab sections already have the corresponding lectures as a corequisite and Mark believes they do.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-024

Items under consideration: CHEM 472

Speaker: Mark Nielsen

Discussion: This is an adjustment to a course that was taught by a faculty member who left the university. Under the new instructor, the content has evolved slightly. There is also a prerequisite change. Lindsey Brown asked if at least 50% of the content is the same. Mark Nielsen confirmed that it is. Bert Baumgaertner pointed out a missing word in the description (“a report”) that will be corrected as a friendly amendment.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-024

Items under consideration: GEOG 220

Speaker: Jerry Fairley

Discussion: This is a new course offering. It was offered as a Special Topic and proved very popular with students. It is designed to get students interested in Geography and Geology and introduce them to the basic concepts via a subject they find appealing.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-024

Items under consideration: GEOL 447/547

Speaker: Jerry Fairley

Discussion: The department has a couple of people that work in Geochronology or Thermochronology, including Jessica Stanley, who was hired about three years ago. Quite a few students are interested in these topics. It is a cutting-edge discipline that continues to evolve. Having this offering would be good for both students and faculty. Lindsey Brown wonders about the short title and whether the hyphen needs to be there. There was a friendly amendment to make the short title Geo/Thermochronology.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-024

Items under consideration: GEOG 424/524

Speaker: Jerry Fairley

Discussion: This clarifies the course description, particularly to help students understand their responsibility to do weekly lab assignments whether they are taking the class online or in person. There is also a change in prerequisite. Karen Humes, who teaches this course, told Mark Nielsen she found FOR 375 to be an adequate prerequisite.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-024

Items under consideration: GEOL 410/508

Speaker: Jerry Fairley

Discussion: GEOL 410 is a long-standing course, having been offered for more than 20 years. It is a field technique class for groundwater study. This is a popular class, with Geology, Civil Engineering, and Environmental Science students. Graduate students would like to take the class, but it is difficult for them to do that without getting graduate credit. This change will add additional work for the graduate students to get graduate-level credit. It also makes this a WSU coop class. There are quite a few WSU students who want to gain the skills taught in this class. There is no other course of this type offered anywhere in the region. There was a discussion about the long and short titles. The short title should be changed via friendly amendment to match the new long title. Sanjay noted a typo in the description (“complementary”) that is being corrected via friendly amendment.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-024

Items under consideration: GEOL 471/572

Speaker: Jerry Fairley

Discussion: Similar to the last proposal, they are adding a graduate-level course as well as making this a WSU coop class. This topic is important in Idaho but has not yet been offered at the graduate level. The department is trying to get as many of their courses listed as WSU coop courses as possible. WSU has had declining Geography and Geology faculty numbers, so they would like to pick up as many of the WSU students as they can. There was a discussion about whether the word “substantial” is needed in the course description to describe the graduate-level research paper. In the end, it was removed via friendly amendment. It was pointed out that the requirements for the paper can be put in the syllabus.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-024

Items under consideration: HYDR 409

Speaker: Jerry Fairley

Discussion: This is to clarify the prerequisites. Jerry, as the instructor, has found the students do not actually need Calculus III to do well in this class. Removing that prerequisite gets more students into the class, and in some cases might encourage them to take higher-level Math courses afterwards. Note: There is a HYDR 509 that should be joint-listed with this.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-024

Items under consideration: MATH 183, MATH 483

Speaker: Mark Nielsen

Discussion: MATH 183 is a new course, a part of Mathematics that is now fast-growing. The department is introducing a shift to the Modeling option and these two new courses will play a role in that minor. This will not increase teaching load. Julie Beeston pointed out the Computer Science course being created for Python and suggested they consider adding it as a prerequisite. It will be an Introductory course that could help students succeed without having to spend as much time on computer science basics in the MATH course. Sanjay Sisodiya suggested adding Instructor Permission to the prerequisites since fewer students are taking MATH 160 or 170 these days. Mark Nielsen replied that instructor permission is always an implied option, but he understands that spelling it out might attract more students. Bert Baumgaertner asked if this was intended to compete with Computer Science. The

description sounds like something that would be a computer science topic rather than a math topic. Mark said there was a conversation with Computer Science but he was not part of it. Steve Shook explained the difference between a Computer Science approach to Python and a Math approach. Mark said he believes data science is a developing field that crosses over several disciplines and we are behind the curve with it. Bert clarified that the intent of his question is to prevent a turf war now rather than having one arise and needing to revise the catalog after-the-fact. Julie is uncomfortable not knowing who in Computer Science this has been discussed with. Mark is not sure. Julie would like to know before voting on this. Mark thinks the same concern might apply to MATH 483. He agrees that it is worth waiting to find out more information. Julie is sending an email to the appropriate people to start the conversation between CS and MATH.

Motion to Postpone for a future meeting: Julie Beeston

Second: Bert Baumgaertner

Outcome: Postponed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-024

Items under consideration: MATH 537

Speaker: Mark Nielsen

Discussion: This is a standard part of Mathematics that is not in the typical undergraduate curriculum. They have a faculty member who would like to teach it as a graduate course. Bert Baumgaertner asked if undergraduates can take this course for upper-division credit. Yes, if they are seniors with a 3.0 GPA.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-024

Items under consideration: STAT 251

Speaker: Mark Nielsen

Discussion: This is a step up in the prerequisites. MATH 153 is one of the new courses the state requires us to offer. Many years ago, U of I had STAT 150 and STAT 251. They were combined. Now, with the addition of MATH 153, they would like to take STAT 251 back to the higher prerequisite.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-024

Items under consideration: STAT 422

Speaker: Mark Nielsen

Discussion: They are now requiring a 'C' or better in STAT 251 and they are adjusting the title.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-024

Items under consideration: Statistics Minor

Speaker: Mark Nielsen

Discussion: They are adding a few new electives and moving one course down from the list of required courses to the list of electives. Sanjay Sisodiya likes the addition of more electives, from an advising standpoint. Mark Nielsen thinks it will reduce the number of sub/waiver forms, too.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-024

Items under consideration: PHYS 464/564 and MSE 464/564

Speaker: Francesca Sammarruca, Mark Nielsen

Discussion: They are removing the cross-list with MSE 464/564, so it will now be an exclusively Physics course. That allows them to change the title accordingly. The prerequisites and corequisites have also been adjusted in ways that make sense for a stand-alone Physics class. Mark Nielsen mentioned that the content change represents much less than 50% of the course content. He also mentioned that MSE (which no longer exists as a department) had no problem removing this cross-listing and updating the Physics courses.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

VI. Additional Questions or Discussion –

- There is no meeting next week due to Fall Break.
- Jim Connors will not be able to chair the 11/30 meeting so Sanjay Sisodiaya was nominated and will serve as chair in his place.

VII. Chairperson Jim Connors closed the meeting at 4:45 pm. UCC will reconvene on Monday, November 30, 2020.

Amy Kingston
UCC Secretary