

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE
2020-21 Meeting #11, November 30, 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: Rebecca Frost, Charles Goebel, Amy Kingston, Lee Vierling, Lisette Waits

I. Guest Chairperson Sanjay Sisodiya called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

II. The minutes from November 16, 2020 were approved.

III. Announcements and Communications - none

IV. Old Business

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-024

Items under consideration: MATH 183, MATH 483

Speaker: Mark Nielsen

Discussion: There are ongoing and constructive discussions between Mathematics and Computer Science departments taking place now, so this will remain tabled for a future meeting.

Outcome: Remains tabled

V. New Business

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-025

Items under consideration: ENVS 201

Speaker: Lee Vierling

Discussion: This is a cohort-building course intended for either freshmen or transfer students in their first year at U of I. ENVS 101 and 102 were too large to effectively build a sense of a cohort, and the department noticed their attrition rate was higher than the rest of the university. They hope this course will help address that.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-025

Items under consideration: ENVS 300

Speaker: Lee Vierling

Discussion: This is another course that is part of the new, revised Environmental Science core curriculum. In that past, students took the ENVS 400 Seminar. However, because of the numbering they often waited until their senior year to take it. The course is designed to set students up for their senior project, so it will be more effective when taken during the third year. They are removing ENVS 400 from the catalog and adding this as a 300-level instead. Lindsey Brown asked whether it would be valuable to amend the FSH to have a reserved 300-level common course number for seminars, in addition to the existing 200- and 200-level seminars. Mark Nielsen does not see an across-the-board need for that. He thinks having an upper-division (400-level) and lower-division (200-level) Seminar is sufficient. Lee Vierling thinks the 400-level Seminar is probably sufficient for most programs, but the Environmental Science program is campus-wide so advising is more spread out for this program.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-025

Items under consideration: ENVS 420/520, ENVS 423/523, ENVS 430/530

Speaker: Lee Vierling

Discussion: The Bioregional Planning program was discontinued during program prioritization. As part of that process, Jaap Vos moved into the Environmental Science program. There was clarification about whether the BIOP courses should remain or be removed. It was decided to leave them in the catalog until the Bioregional Planning teach-out period is finished.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-025

Items under consideration: ENVS 476

Speaker: Lee Vierling

Discussion: This is a core course for the new Environmental Science curriculum. It currently exists in NRS and they are adding on an ENVS cross-listed course. Right now, there is only one Senior Experience option in the Environmental Science program. They have gotten feedback that more students desire a group-oriented, interdisciplinary senior experience. That is what this course is designed to offer. The NRS course is already designated as a General Education course, so this would be too.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-025

Items under consideration: ENVS 551

Speaker: Lee Vierling

Discussion: This is a new graduate-level course. The online graduate courses are rapidly gaining enrollment and attention. These are designed for students who want a breadth of experience. There was not an online Social Science research methods course, so this will fill that need. This will be part of a regular rotation, offered every other year. Lindsey Brown pointed out that the prerequisite as listed cannot be enforced by the Registrar's Office so it will have to be managed within the department.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-025

Items under consideration: ENVS 450

Speaker: Lee Vierling

Discussion: This is a prerequisite change from MATH 170 to MATH 143. This is a cross-listing with SOIL, and they do not require Calculus as part of their program. The change of prerequisite will make this more accessible to SOIL students who want to take this course. Lindsey Brown said sometimes she talks to transfer students who have taken a higher-level Math course and cannot get into a course because they don't have the lower-level prerequisite course on their record. She asked if they would be open to a prerequisite of "MATH 143 or higher." Lee Vierling said yes. Mark Nielsen mentioned that some higher MATH courses would not include the content of MATH 143. Rebecca Frost responded that it makes sense to include any vertically-related MATH course. Mark also said that MATH 170 to MATH 143 is a big jump down. He wondered if there was a content reason that Calculus was originally required as a prerequisite. Lee is unsure and the professor is not here to answer that. Francesca Sammarruca agrees – there is a big difference between Calculus-related content and Algebra-related content. There was a discussion about what "vertically-related" courses are.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-025

Items under consideration: B.S.Envs. in Environmental Sciences

Speaker: Lee Vierling

Discussion: This is a complete revision of the program. For context, this change has been two years in the making. In Fall 2018, the program was charged by the Dean and Provost to refresh the curriculum, which had not been done in the history of the program. This is because the program was becoming difficult to advise and students were having trouble navigating the program. They created working groups, did employer surveys, gathered data from EMSI, and looked at other university programs. They also did alumni surveys and held meetings with existing faculty members. The vote count was 31-2 in favor of this proposal. There are currently five option areas, two of which are online. In the new proposal, there are four face-to-face options and one online option. The names of the option areas have changed, along with many of the requirements. Lee Vierling is proud of how inclusive the process was. They communicated with other department chairs to check whether the listed courses would continue to be offered in the future and would have enough capacity, etc. Lindsey Brown asked whether these are Options or Emphases. Per the official definition, Options are 50% or more of the major, while Emphasis areas are between 25-49% of the major. His intention was for these to be Emphasis areas, but he is not sure if they meet those percentage requirements. Mark Nielsen asked if this is being put forward as a Group A or Group B/C change. It is the latter. Amy Kingston and Rebecca Frost explained how to tell via the workflow and where to find the supplementary documents.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-025

Items under consideration: NRS 508

Speaker: Lee Vierling

Discussion: This is a new one-credit course. It will be team-taught and will touch on the five foundations of the NRS program, It will also serve a cohort-building function since this department is so interdisciplinary. It will demonstrate to students how faculty work across different disciplines.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-025

Items under consideration: NRS 509**Speaker:** Lee Vierling

Discussion: This has been offered previously as an experimental course and has been popular. They intend to offer it every other year. Students will bring data and take this as a graduate-level paper-writing course. They use a published textbook that walks them through the various stages of submitting a journal article. Bert Baumgaertner wonders if the title or description should indicate that this is specific to journal article standards within NRS, since the requirements for a Philosophy journal article (or other discipline) might be different. Lee Vierling indicated that it's intended to be a scientific journal article but could be from various disciplines within Science. Bronte Sone has taken the course. The intent is to write a scientific article and the way it was graded was largely focused on effort, since graduate students each face different challenges when writing scientific articles. Mark Nielsen thinks it sounds like a valuable course but he can see it being discipline-specific. In the College of Science, these skills are mostly built in a mentor relationship with a faculty advisor. Lindsey Brown believes the title sounds more like a workshop title and this content sounds more substantial than a weekend workshop. Mark asked if there is a conflict with English, who offers a Science Writing course. Bronte replied that this is more focused on Natural Resources and includes guest speakers from journals within the discipline (e.g., High Country News). Bert reiterated the need to adjust the title and/or course description to indicate the specific focus on Natural Resources to avoid confusion. Lee suggested amending the title to "Writing a Scientific Journal Article" and amending the course description to include Natural Resources. Mark suggested "Writing for Scientific Publication." Lindsey asked if this should be repeatable or not. Lee said possibly – he will ask.

Outcome: Tabled unanimously**UCC Agenda number:** UCC-21-025**Items under consideration:** NRS 555**Speaker:** Lee Vierling

Discussion: This course would support the online Environmental Science program and the MNR. Bert Baumgaertner asked if students will truly write daily reflection memos as indicated in the section about how learning outcomes will be measured. Lee Vierling thinks Bert's suggestion of "regular" will also be appropriate.

Outcome: Passed unanimously, as amended**UCC Agenda number:** UCC-21-025**Items under consideration:** NR 507 to NRS 507**Speaker:** Lee Vierling

Discussion: This was previously an NR course, but the management of the course has largely been within the NRS department. Thus, this is largely a housekeeping change.

Outcome: Passed unanimously**UCC Agenda number:** UCC-21-025**Items under consideration:** NRS 501**Speaker:** Lee Vierling

Discussion: This proposal drops the specific subtitle to the Seminar because they would like to maintain the flexibility to have this be subtitleable.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-025

Items under consideration: Remote Sensing of the Environment Undergraduate Certificate

Speaker: Lee Vierling

Discussion: This brings the undergraduate certificate up to speed to reflect the new courses that have recently been added.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-025

Items under consideration: Remote Sensing of the Environment Graduate Certificate

Speaker: Lee Vierling

Discussion: As before, they are updating the certificate to reflect new course offerings. Still needs a vote from Graduate Council.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-025

Items under consideration: B.S.Nat.Resc.Consv. in Natural Resources Conservation

Speaker: Lee Vierling

Discussion: This degree program has a lot in common with Environmental Science, particularly one of the new option areas in that program. Therefore, they would like to discontinue this degree program to fully support that revised Environmental Science program.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-025

Items under consideration: WLF 521

Speaker: Lisette Waits

Discussion: This is a new course being added that will be taught both in-person and online. The goal is to help students communicate science in a variety of formats, including oral and visually-rich presentations, infographics, short videos, and other types of social media. It would be open to WSU graduate students. It will be taught by a faculty member in the federal coop unit, so there is no extra work for current tenure-track faculty. Lindsey Brown wonders if there was consultation with English re: their Communication for Science Professionals course (ENGL 522). Lisette replied that they did not communicate outside CNR. Bert Baumgaertner recommends a discussion with the English department chair to ensure there will not be much overlap between the two courses.

Outcome: tabled unanimously, pending a conversation with English

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-025

Items under consideration: FOR 410, FOR 326

Speaker: Charles Goebel

Discussion: They are changing the title of FOR 326 and the content will change slightly to be more focused on ecology and fire behavior with an international focus. They are removing some of the management aspects from this course. Those will be taught in a new course, FOR 410, which will be online. They expect this to be a popular course from a professional development standpoint since it

dovetails with federal certification requirements. Lindsey Brown prefers we do not mention the fact that they can earn a federal certificate in the course description in case those federal requirements change. That sentence was deleted from the description as a friendly amendment.

Outcome: Passed unanimously, as amended

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-025

Items under consideration: FOR 274

Speaker: Charles Goebel

Discussion: This is just a prerequisite change. There was a discussion about adding the language about vertically-related MATH courses meeting that requirement. The committee agreed to pass this with an understanding of the spirit of the prerequisites, and the Registrar's Office can add that language in the future if needed.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-025

Items under consideration: FOR 433

Speaker: Charles Goebel

Discussion: This covers higher-level material than many of the students need in their early careers, so they are shifting the focus to make it more relevant.

Outcome: Passed unanimously

UCC Agenda number: UCC-21-025

Items under consideration: FOR 450

Speaker: Charles Goebel

Outcome: Passed unanimously

VI. Additional Questions or Discussion – None

VII. Guest Chairperson Sanjay Sisodiya closed the meeting at 4:57 pm. UCC will reconvene on Monday, December 7, 2020.

Amy Kingston
UCC Secretary