

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

Meeting #13, February 13, 2023

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

Steve Shook, Chair*
Lindsey Brown
Stacey Doumit*
Hanwen Dong*
Gwen Gorzelsky
Hector Guerrero*

Kalynn Hanley*
Georgia Harrison*
Kyle Howerton*
Stacy Isenbarger*
Emad Kassem*
Jerry Long*

Renee Love/Mark Nielsen*
Jeff Bailey*
Dean Panttaja
David Paul*
Francesca Sammarruca
Jared Sherman*

Guests Present: Rebecca Frost, Annette Folwell, Wes McClintick, Sarah Dawson, Brian Wolf, Traci Craig, Karla Eitel, Erik Luvaas, Vibhav Durgesh, Matt Bernard

I. Chairperson Steve Shook called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

II. Announcements and Communications

III. The minutes from the February 6, 2023 meeting were approved.

IV. New Business

UCC Agenda number: UCC-23-059

Items under consideration: Edit Natural Resources (MNR)

Speaker: Karla Eitel

Discussion: Lindsey Brown asked about a note listed under the Curriculum heading in the proposal. She thought it seemed out of place and asked if it was intended. Karla replied that she didn't know if it was intended because someone else put together the proposal. Gwen Gorzelsky added that it was actually her who added the note and it was only meant for herself. She intended to remove the note. The note can be removed from the proposal.

Jerry Long asked about the location of the program. It appeared that McCall was being added as a location that the program could be completed. He asked if that was a change. It was his understanding that it could be completed in Moscow. Can it now be entirely completed in McCall? Steve Shook asked Karla if that was correct because it was his understanding that it could only be completed in McCall and not Moscow. Karla confirmed that this was correct. However, it was only one of many options of the MNR that could be completed only in McCall. Other options could be completed in Moscow, so Moscow should not be removed from the proposal.

Outcome: Amended to remove the note referred to in the discussion and approved.

UCC Agenda number: UCC-23-059

Items under consideration: Edit Environmental Education and Science Communication Academic Certificate

Speaker:

Discussion: Lindsey Brown noted that the certificate only lists fall and spring sessions. Would it be better to remove those specifics from the proposal to provide more flexibility within the program? Guidance to students could be given in a degree map. Karla replied that it could be changed to whatever makes sense and if what Lindsey's recommending makes more sense, she agrees that the proposal should be modified to remove the language regarding the specific semesters.

Outcome: Amended to remove reference to the fall and spring options and approved.

UCC Agenda number: UCC-23-060

Items under consideration: Add Nuclear Safeguards and Security Certificate

Speaker: Matt Bernard

Discussion: This certificate was developed in conjunction with Idaho National Labs (INL). It's the first of its kind to rely on curriculum from all three universities (ISU, U of I, and BSU). They have worked with provost offices from all three universities.

Steve Shook asked, "will a student receive the certificate from the U of I"? Matt replied that it would come from all three universities. This same proposal is going through ISU and BSU in parallel.

Lindsey Brown asked if we could link to ISU and BSU course descriptions as opposed to us having to put their course descriptions in our catalog. Matt said that makes sense. Gwen Gorzelsky stated that they would provide Lindsey with the links once they are available at the other institutions.

Outcome: Approved.

V. Old Business

UCC Agenda number: UCC-23-0

Items under consideration: Edit ME 201/404

Speaker: Vibhav Durgesh

Discussion: in a previous UCC meeting, the Committee noted that the joint listed courses had different credit requirements and prerequisites. If this was the case, the courses could not be joint listed. Those prerequisites and credits have since been updated to match.

Outcome: Approved.

UCC Agenda number: UCC-23-051

Items under consideration: Add Criminology (MS)

Speaker: Brian Wolf, Traci Craig, Annette Folwell

Discussion: Several changes have been made to the proposal since the last meeting. Paragraph 20a and 21a on the SBOE form had been significantly updated. Brian noted that he changed 21a to remove any reference to reallocation of resources.

Jerry Long noted that there actually was a reallocation of resources and it needed to be noted on the form. After some discussion it was noted that the language should be updated to note the reallocation of funds.

Jerry suggested using the following language: “The two additional faculty lines will be funded out of salary savings resulting from departures from the college. There will be no impact on existing programs.”

Outcome: Amended to change verbiage in item 21a on the SBOA form to the verbiage suggested by Jerry Long and approved.

UCC Agenda number: UCC-23-058

Items under consideration: Add Sustainability Certificate

Speaker: Gwen Gorzelsky, Sarah Dawson

Discussion: After last week’s discussion on this subject, committee members forwarded their remarks and concerns pertaining to this new certificate to Gwen and Sarah. Gwen said they appreciated these remarks and her and Sarah tried to address those concerns. They provide a document in response to those concerns.

Gwen wanted to make it clear that the plan to design a university-wide certificate did not come from the President’s Office, but from the working group. The working group came from faculty, students, and outside stakeholders. They wanted this credential to be available to all students. A major or minor may not accomplish this goal.

Gwen stated that Provost Lawrence has agreed to allow the certificate to be managed from his office. Gwen stated that she was happy to manage the process of overseeing approvals and “back office” processes.

Francesca Sammaruca asked if a provisional approval could be used. Gwen replied that this would be up to the committee.

Gwen wanted to make it clear that it’s not OK for any program to be lacking in coherence and sequencing of learning. She noted that Jerry made some good suggestions on how to overcome these obstacles. If UCC were to give provisional approval, this would allow the certificate to go forward, recognizing it does need more work.

Stacy Isenbarger replied that hearing Gwen make these remarks says to her that this certificate isn’t ready. She felt this should almost be three different certificates instead of one. It still needs more structure before she was comfortable voting for this.

Stacey Doumit asked if there was any precedent for providing provisional approval and wasn’t comfortable setting that precedent.

Steve Shook noted that Policy 4120 covered interim catalog changes. The provost can make interim catalog changes, but it says this does not include curricular changes. This tells us that there can be no provisional or interim approval for this certificate. He also noted that if we allow this to be a provisional program, we might have to allow other provisional programs in the future. Do we want to set this presence for future UCC committees? He was also concerned about what NWCCU would say about a provisional program. He didn't see how the learning outcomes can be achieved without an intro course or a capstone course. We are being asked to waive a lot of policy issues.

Steve also addressed one of the solutions Wes McClintick proposed where each of the colleges would have someone in a support role to take on the back office administrative tasks. While he liked this approach, he noted that there could be some "fairness" issues when it came to providing things like course substitution waivers. There may not be any consistency.

Jerry Long noted that just because a course is a part of the certificate, it doesn't mean that course would address sustainability. As faculty members who teach the course change, they may not address what needs to be addressed from a sustainability perspective, unless the course description lists the requirement. Steve Shook agreed and said this goes back to the cohesiveness of the program. That's why some sort of sustainability requirement must be listed in the course description because you only have to teach to the course description. He gave the example of MHR 441, a labor relations course, which didn't have any relationship to sustainability in its course description.

Francesca broached the idea of making this a pilot program without putting it in the catalog. Lindsey replied the NWCCU doesn't allow pilot programs. It must go through all the approval levels to advertise the program. Gwen mentioned that a vice provost from another institution told her such a pilot program may be possible with just a small group of students and get feedback from them, without advertising the program.

David Paul asked if the committee was recommending that the program create new courses, not currently existing at the institution. Stacy Isenbarger said, yes, new courses should be created, such as capstone courses, because it's so broad. Gwen mentioned that Sarah has offered to seek and get affiliate faculty status and teach and design the capstone course.

Jerry Long stated suggested that what we should do now is agree that in its current form, it's not going to be approved by this committee. If there's a structure within in the next six months, we could approve it then. I move to table it. It was seconded.

Outcome: Tabled

VI. Additional Questions or Discussion - None

VII. Chairperson Steve Shook closed the meeting at 4:52 pm.

Ted Unzicker
UCC Secretary