

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

Meeting #14, March 6, 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*

Jeff Bailey*

Dean Panttaja

David Paul*

Francesca Sammarruca

Jared Sherman*

Guests Present: Rebecca Frost, Annette Folwell, Aliza Cover, Jeff Herring, Alexandra Teague

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

II. Announcements and Communications

III. The minutes from the February 13, 2023 meeting were approved.

IV. New Business

UCC Agenda number: UCC-23-061

Items under consideration: Edit Law (JD)

Speakers: Aliza Cover, Jerry Long, Jeff Herring

Discussion: Jeff Herring: Purpose of this update is to reduce the cognitive load on our first year Law students, provide flexibility to teaching resources, and reduce the number of upper division courses. We propose consolidating several courses.

Jeff Bailey asked, "why are you saying it's reducing cognitive load, but it doesn't really sound like that's what you are doing"? Jeff Herring replied that first year students needed more cognitive space to absorb the material, and that having a heavier credit load made it more difficult to do that.

Aliza commented that they have added curriculum over that past several years and didn't take anything away when they did that.

Gwen Gorzelsky commented that research has shown that too much cognitive load can have a negative effect on information retained by the student.

Jerry Long ensured everyone that they are not making it easy.

Outcome: Approved

UCC Agenda number: UCC-23-061

Items under consideration: Edit LAW 8050, 8130, 9160, 9730, and 9750.

Speaker: Aliza Cover, Jerry Long, Jeff Herring

Discussion: Steve Shook shared some notes from Lindsey Brown who couldn't attend. She notes that LAW 8050, 8130, and 8060 appear to be combining courses. While these courses have been edited, nothing has been done with the corresponding courses that are being combined?

Steve Shook noted that the Law team would need to inactivate LAW 8060, 9140, and 9050. They could submit those changes for the next meeting. Law team said they would likely keep 9050.

Outcome: Approved.

UCC Agenda number: UCC-23-062

Items under consideration: Edit Creative Writing MFA

Speaker: Alexandra Teague

Discussion: Alexandra commented that the department is attempting to make the program more flexible for students. The degree won't be any less rigorous.

Steve Shook asked if the techniques courses could be listed out on the degree. It would be better than just having the categories. Alexandra said she could. Ted would work with Alexandra to get the courses listed out.

Rebecca Frost commented that she didn't have a way to enforce that students take four terms at U of I. Alexandra confirmed that this is enforced by the department.

Lindsey Brown asked (via Steve Shook) if this was for the thesis only option. Alexandra confirmed that it was.

Outcome: Approved

UCC Agenda number: UCC-23-062

Items under consideration: Edit English (MA)

Speaker: Alexandra Teague

Discussion: These changes are related to theory. We remove language related to theory, as well as language related to thesis.

Lindsey Brown (via Steve Shook) stated they are saying it a non-thesis program but referencing a non-thesis course. She suggested using the term "non-thesis research credits". She also suggested changing "test the student's ability to defend his or her work" to gender neutral language.

Steve Shook suggested they remove the statement "The non-thesis requirement can be met through the M.A. examination" should be removed since this was already stated at the beginning of the paragraph.

Alexandra agreed with Steve and Lindsey's suggestions.

Outcome: Amended to incorporate Steve and Lindsey's recommendations and approved.

VI. Additional Questions or Discussion - None

VII. Chairperson Steve Shook closed the meeting at 3:58 pm.

Ted Unzicker
UCC Secretary