

## University Curriculum Committee Meeting

Meeting #4, October 16, 2023

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

**Dave Paul, Chair\***

**Dean Panttaja**

**Francesca Sammaruca**

**Erin James\***

**Stacy Isenbarger\***

**Stacey Doumit\***

**Magdy Noguera\***

Manoj Shrestha\*

**Steve Shook\***

**Erkan Buzbas\***

**Emad Kassem\***

**Jerry Long\***

**Hanwen Dong\***

**Lindsey Brown**

Emma Johnston\*

Nate Trachimowicz

**Gwen Gorzelsky**

**Guests present:** Ted Unzicker, Annette Folwell, Trevor White, Karen Humes, Tim Link, Shiyi Chen, Renee Love

- I. Chairperson Dave Paul called the meeting to order at 3:32 pm.
- II. October 16, 2023 minutes were approved.
  - I. Francesca Sammaruca requested an amendment to change her phrasing of “student support program” to “academic support program” in the minutes. This amendment was voted on and approved.
- III. Announcements and Communications
  - I. Ted Unzicker corrected a statement he made in the previous meeting (October 16, 2023) on using the prerequisite of “junior standing” in LAW 406 and 407. Previously, he’d explained that such a clarification was not necessary because it was a 400-level course, but after looking into it further, he found that it was needed because only freshman were prevented from registering for the course rather than freshman and sophomores. After discovering this, he then made the appropriate adjustment to the courses’ requirements.
- IV. Old Business

**UCC Agenda Item Number:** UCC-24-022

**Item(s) Under Consideration:** Add INTR 250

**Speaker:** Annette Folwell

**Discussion:** This proposed course was a 0-1 credit course that can be used to satisfy the Gen Ed capstone requirement for students pursuing an associate degree. Lindsey Brown asked what the differences were between INTR 250 and 201. Annette Folwell explained that INTR 201 focuses on career and leadership, while INTR 250 focuses singularly on careers and career exploration. Lindsey also asked about the way the associate degree is referred to in the course description and asked for more explanation on some of the phrasing choices. Annette explained that the way associate degrees are

generally viewed are as options for students who no longer can or want to pursue a full bachelor's degree, but who would like to receive some form of credential for their efforts. Thus, this may help with transferability, as was referenced in the course description, but that is not the primary goal.

Lindsey then pointed out that this could be used for dual enrollment students, and Annette explained that those students would likely not be able to earn the required 60 credits through the dual credit program alone. Lindsey said that it was a possibility and that she was concerned that these students would be confused by this course because they may mistakenly believe they have to then go into a career field rather than going on to pursue another degree.

Annette asked for clarification on what amendment should be made, and Lindsey explained that she wanted to pose the concern. Annette said that she did not think it would be a concern for their program because of how it's been explained to college advisors.

Stacey Doumit asked why the course would be restricted to those only pursuing an associate degree, and Annette said they were concerned that students may not want to take their own 400-level capstone course, and by restricting it, this course is just offered as a capstone for students who need it for their degree rather than leaving it as an open capstone option for any student. Stacey then asked why the course used the interdisciplinary prefix, and Annette said it was because they did not have a specific prefix for general studies, so this was the best option.

**Outcome:** Approved

**UCC Agenda Item Number:** UCC-24-023

**Item(s) Under Consideration:** Add the Scientific Communication and Leadership Certificate

**Speaker:** Dave Paul

**Discussion:** Dave noted that one of the required courses (ENGL 522) was not appearing in the curriculum or the catalog. Ted Unzicker explained that the course could be dormant, so it could be offered, but it would not appear in the catalog. Erin James, reading a previous correspondence on this course, explained that Jerry McMurtry (the proposal author) is asking for the ENGL 522 to be removed from dormancy, and Erin noted that the English department has given their approval for this change to be made.

After asking if this could still be approved, Lindsey Brown explained that this could be approved contingent upon the course being successfully removed from dormancy. Ted Unzicker clarified the policy and process surrounding dormant courses, and Stacy Isenbarger suggested that they bring the course out of dormancy as part of the approval for this certificate.

Erin expressed concern of how the paperwork would work through the system to remove this course from dormancy since it is currently being taught by a communication professor as an INTR course, but it will then be added to the catalog again as an English course.

Jerry Long suggested that due to the paperwork concerns and the minuteness of the matter, UCC bring this course out of dormancy sans the procedural paperwork. Lindsey Brown agreed that it was a possibility because anyone can make a proposal, but her only concern was that UCC would not be following its own policy by doing so.

Stacey Doumit also pointed out that two other courses listed in the certificate's curriculum also showed errors (BUS 551 and 552). After checking, Lindsey explained that these courses were still going through the approval process.

Steve Shook expressed a concern that this certificate will be earned automatically while working toward a PSM degree, explaining that it was more of a philosophical concern rather than being specific to this certificate. Stacey Doumit explained that in their department, they decided to view it as a matter of what makes the certificate unique from the degree. Stacy Isenbarger asked what committee would be in charge of establishing rules surrounding this issue.

Jerry pointed out that this certificate would not be earned automatically because it does not use required PSM courses in its curriculum, and answered Stacy's question by stating that it was the State Board who would decide. However, Lindsey added that a policy could be added to UCC addressing the use of overlapping courses in different programs. As it currently stands, she explained, that decision is left up to the departments. After a brief discussion, the committee decided to set this issue aside to be addressed later.

Erin asked how they should go about taking the course out of dormancy, and Dave suggested adding a note in the description of the proposal stating that the English department approves of the change.

**Outcome:** Postponed

**UCC Agenda Item Number:** UCC-24-023

**Item(s) Under Consideration:** Add INTR 513, 512, and 507

**Speaker:** Dave Paul

**Discussion:** INTR 513 was previously taught as a seminar course, and they would now like to make it an official course. Dave noted that INTR 512 should be joint-listed with INTR 412 rather than cross-listed, and Ted Unzicker explained that could be fixed by the Registrar's Office. This was also a course taught previously as a seminar that they would like to make its own course.

Stacey Doumit suggested removing the first line from the INTR 513 and 512 course descriptions to make them sound less like an advertisement, and it was suggested that these be removed as part of a friendly amendment. Erin James also voiced a concern that TA graduate students would sign up for this course as an easier way to get their required 9 credits needed to maintain their position. Stacy Isenbarger and Francesca Sammaruca addressed this by saying that students had to have set study plans with their advisors, so they won't (or shouldn't) advise students to take this course multiple times just to fulfill that credit need.

Erin also added that she'd like more reasoning behind why this course would be offered for credit when it has previously been offered as an optional seminar, and Lindsey said that she'd like more background on why another grant writing course was being proposed when other grant writing courses (ED 620 and ENGL 320) already exists.

Jerry Long suggested that since the proposal author is not in attendance to answer questions, the course proposals be postponed.

**Outcome:** Postponed until initiator can attend

**UCC Agenda Item Number:** UCC-24-024

**Item(s) Under Consideration:** Add the Sustainability Certificate

**Speaker:** Erin James, Karen Humes

**Discussion:** Lindsey Brown suggested that the footnote added for the IAD 368 be removed before it is added to the catalog, as it is largely informational for the Registrar's Office only. Steve Shook noted that many of the courses have had changes to their course descriptions to better fit this certificate and asked if all the courses included in the certificate would be going through that process. Erin James explained that the committee working on this certificate has not mandated that the word "sustainability" be in the course description to be added to the certificate, but they have been encouraging it to clarify relevancy. Erin also explained the process the committee has undergone to ensure course relevancy.

Emad Kassem asked a question on the CIM form set-up for the financial impact section, and Lindsey and Ted explained that the certificate was listed as costing less than \$250,000 because that's the lowest option available to select.

Francesca Sammaruca and Erin clarified the reasoning behind the use of a new committee due to its interdisciplinary nature.

There was a brief discussion concerning a previously cross-listed course (SOIL 436) listed in the certificate that is still undergoing work by the Registrar's Office.

Jerry Long asked if taking BIOL 404 under a specific topic could be enforced, and Lindsey Brown said that she was not sure if they could. Ted Unzicker also explained that they would need to make a course to fulfill that need in the future because a special topics course can only be offered under the same title three times. Erin said that she could encourage the biology department to make this course its own course, and she then explained the planned process of yearly evaluation. She then suggested making an amendment to remove this course from the current proposal.

**Outcome:** Approved with amendment to remove BIOL 404

#### V. New Business

**UCC Agenda Item Number:** UCC-24-025

**Item(s) Under Consideration:** Edit Creative Writing M.F.A.

**Speaker:** Erin James

**Discussion:** This program change accounted for the previously approved changes to the English courses in the curriculum. Lindsey Brown noted that there was an irregular superscript used in the curriculum and asked that it be changed to which Erin James agreed.

**Outcome:** Approved with a change to the superscript section

**UCC Agenda Item Number:** UCC-24-025

**Item(s) Under Consideration:** Edit ENGL 322, ENGL 380, and ENGL 384

**Speaker:** Dave Paul

**Discussion:** The ENGL 322 proposal requested a change in the course description and the learning outcomes to make it more relevant to the Sustainability certificate. The ENGL 380 proposal requested adding the option of subtitles and making it repeatable for up to six credits. Lindsey Brown requested editing the "typically offered" section to standardize the language, but she clarified that details could be

worked out with the proposer outside of the meeting. The ENGL 384 proposal requested adding subtitles and making the course repeatable for up to six credits.

**Outcome:** Approved

**UCC Agenda Item Number:** UCC-24-025

**Item(s) Under Consideration:** Edit PHIL 427

**Speaker:** Dave Paul

**Discussion:** The PHIL 427 proposal requested a change in the course name and course description. Stacy Isenbarger expressed concern that the course description was too specific and may restrict a professor's teaching in the future, and Steve Shook shared this concern. There was a brief discussion on possible phrasing changes as well as the proposal author's intentions. Because the proposal author was not in attendance, the course was postponed until Annette Folwell could reach out to the author and ensure that the specificity of the course description was intentional.

**Outcome:** Postponed

**UCC Agenda Item Number:** UCC-24-026

**Item(s) Under Consideration:** Edit Water Resources Concurrent JD

**Speaker:** Tim Link

**Discussion:** Tim Link explained that the Water Resource programs rely on other departments and colleges, so these proposed changes are from long overdue changes that have already taken place in other departments.

The Water Resources Concurrent JD proposal had a change in the CIP code, entrance requirements, the number of credits from law that can count to the degree, and where it is offered. It also had a change in policy related to the use of a committee, which would help them more easily streamline the process, and they changed the thesis policy (removing the thesis requirement for M.S. students). Jeff Long explained that this change in thesis option would better aid students in their completion timeline, which has been unnecessarily complicated due to the conflict of completing both a thesis and the bar exam.

Stacey Doumit noted a small grammatical error in the proposal, which would be fixed prior to being added to the catalog. She also asked about why so many law courses were crossed out in the curriculum, and Jerry explained that the College of Law had switched to a four-digit numbering system, so this was reflective of that change.

Lindsey Brown asked for clarification on the tuition structure for this program, and both Jerry and Tim gave brief explanations of their understanding of it. She explained that the catalog may not be the place to include that information necessarily, but it would be good to have that information listed somewhere for students.

Emad Kassem asked if this was available through distance education because Boise was listed as a location for where to complete the program, and Tim explained that it is not and that there is a small law program in Boise that makes this location possible.

**Outcome:** Approved (with approval for the Registrar's Office to work with the Water Resources program to clarify language (see discussion below))

**UCC Agenda Item Number:** UCC-24-026

**Item(s) Under Consideration:** Edit Water Resources—Science Management Option (PHD); Water Resources—Science Management Option (MS); Water Resources—Law Management Policy Option (PHD); Water Resources—Law Management Policy Option (MS); Water Resources Engineering Science Option (PHD); and Water Resources—Engineering Science Option (MS)

**Speaker:** Tim Link

**Discussion:** The Water Resources Science Management Option proposal had a change in the CIP code, a removal and addition of courses, and an edition of where it was offered. It also requested adding a line encouraging students to have taken previous courses in statistics, GIS, remote sensing, numerical modeling, or programming. Dave Paul asked for clarification on this addition, and Tim explained that there used to be a statistical requirement, but they were finding that students needed technical skills over statistical specific experience. They requested adding this line because they were concerned that adding it as a specific requirement would have made it become more difficult than necessary.

Lindsey Brown requested updating the requirements so that the programs did not reference each other (such as the MS option not referencing the PHD information within the same area of focus), and Tim agreed to work with the Registrar's Office on that update.

The Water Resources Science Management Option (MS) proposal had a change in the CIP code, an additional and removal of courses, the same language change listed above (regarding encouraging students to take a course that would enable them to have the needed technical skills), and a change in the locations where it's offered.

The Water Resources Law Management Policy Option (PHD) proposal changed the CIP code, dropped and added courses, updated where it was offered, and edited the language regarding receiving constitutional law credit.

The Water Resources Law Management Policy Option (MS) proposal requested changes to the CIP code, the curriculum (dropping/adding courses), and where it is offered. It also had the same language change regarding constitutional law credit and added a non-thesis option.

The Water Resources Engineering Science Option (PHD) proposal requested changes to the curriculum by removing one course and adding four courses and changes to where it was offered (removing Coeur d'Alene and Idaho Falls). Tim clarified that it had never been offered at those locations previously, and this change was a correction of that information.

The Water Resources Engineering Science Option (MS) proposal requested changes to the entry requirements, the curriculum (dropped one course and added four), the location (dropping Coeur d'Alene and Idaho falls), and the non-thesis option availability.

**Outcome:** Approved (with approval for the Registrar's Office to work with the Water Resources program to clarify language)

**UCC Agenda Item Number:** UCC-24-026

**Item(s) Under Consideration:** Add WR 518

**Speaker:** Tim Link

**Discussion:** This request is being reviewed again after previous UCC feedback to shorten the course description. Steve Shook expressed concern that the recommended preparation line may keep students

from enrolling because they may miss the “or” and read it as needing to have a background knowledge in all the specified areas. Dave Paul suggested shortening it to “basic computer skills.” Erin James wondered if using that phrasing may not be specific enough to make the meaning clear. Tim said that it was not his class, but he believed the professor would be fine with changing the phrasing. He suggested “basic data management or computer programming” instead.

Dave Paul pointed out that the “offered in summer of alt/even years” should be removed from the course description so it is not duplicated. Lindsey Brown agreed. Sydney Beal added that the specific phrasing of “summer alt/even years” was not currently available as an option in CIM, but she and Ted would work out a way to include that information in the catalog.

**Outcome:** Approved (with edits to recommended preparation section and the typically offered section)

**UCC Agenda Item Number:** UCC-24-026

**Item(s) Under Consideration:** Add Child Development M.S.

**Speaker:** Trevor White and Shiyi Chen

**Discussion:** Dave noticed that it seemed like a controversial program in the Faculty Senate and Graduate Council. Trevor White agreed, and Shiyi Chen explained that they had previously added courses without consulting with the respective departments, but they have since discussed it and received approval from those departments. Lindsey Brown pointed out that because it had been under review for so long, the state form now has the old course numbers listed. Trevor asked if they could re-submit that form to Linda in the Provost’s office after editing those numbers prior to the program going on to the State Board, and Gwen Gorzelsky agreed that would work. Trevor also noted that there was a specified special topics course listed in the requirements, and they were in the process of making that its own course.

Steve Shook asked why the Master of Education was being listed as a comparable program on the State Board form, particularly because they did not seem to share many similarities. Shiyi explained that she had assumed that she had to fill out all the information, so she added that even though they are quite different. Gwen said they could take it out when they made the updates for the subject prefix changes.

Erin James asked if they needed to postpone this proposal while waiting for the 504-replacement course to pass through. Trevor explained that they still could teach that particular course for one more semester, and Lindsey said they could leave it as is, but the Registrar’s Office wouldn’t be able to enforce requiring that specific special topics course.

**Outcome:** Approved with the form update

**UCC Agenda Item Number:** UCC-24-027

**Item(s) Under Consideration:** Edit GEOG 411, GEOG 435, GEOG 479, GEOG 483, and GEOG 525

**Speaker:** Renee Love

**Discussion:** The GEOG 411 proposal requested a change in the course name, course description, the WSU cooperative status, and when it is typically offered. They also requested adding a joint-listing. Jerry Long pointed out that in the collection of GEOG course proposals, some had the phrase “Additional work required for graduate credit” and others did not. Lindsey Brown said that the phrasing should be included in the course descriptions for all the applicable courses.

Erin James pointed out a small grammatical error in the course description and suggested removing the article “the” to correct it. There was a brief discussion on other phrasing options, but the UCC ultimately decided to just suggest removing “the” from the description.

After reviewing the rationale, Lindsey checked with Renee to ensure that the instructors understood what teaching a joint-listed course entailed (teaching both undergraduate and graduate levels simultaneously). Renee explained that the phrasing in the rationale was being used to explain how the different modalities of online and in-person would be taught rather than referring to teaching undergraduate and graduate students as separate courses.

The GEOG 435 proposal requested a change in the course description and the learning outcomes. It also requested changing when it is typically offered and adding availability via distance education. Lindsey suggested editing the phrasing of “Helpful if students have GEOG 313, but not required” with “Recommended preparation: GEOG 313” to maintain catalog continuity.

The GEOG 479 proposal requested adding a joint-listed course, editing the course description, adding prerequisites, making it available through distance education, and updating the learning outcomes. Lindsey said that the Registrar’s Office does not enforce prerequisites for graduate level courses. Renee asked if adding “instructor permission” would help with this since they would like students to enter the course with some background on GIS. Lindsey said they could leave the prerequisite of GEOG 385, but they would have to remove the GEOG 525 because there is not a way to enforce that prerequisite for a graduate student. Lindsey suggested rephrasing it as “Recommended preparation for graduate students: GEOG 525”, and Renee agreed to the change. Magdy Noguera also suggested removing the description of Python from the course description, and Renee also agreed to that change.

The GEOG 483 proposal requested changing the course name. Renee explained that the existing title was showing up strangely on students’ transcripts, and this name change would fix that issue.

The GEOG 525 proposal requested a name change to provide more information on the course.

**Outcome:** Approved

**UCC Agenda Item Number:** UCC-24-027

**Item(s) Under Consideration:** Edit GEOL 462

**Speaker:** Renee Love

**Discussion:** This course proposal requested a title change and course description change as well as making it available via distance education. Erin James expressed concern about the length of the course description and suggested eliminating some of the redundancies. She suggested removing the line “Graduate students will be responsible for delving into larger projects and will be expected to exhibit a greater understanding of the implications of their work,” indicating that the information was conveyed in the line “Additional project work is required for graduate credit.” Renee Love also suggests removing the line “Use real geophysical well logs, historic data, and seismic data for their class project” to cut down on length. Jerry Long also suggested rephrasing the line “Industry as it relates to our current climate change will be discussed as well as future prospect inventory and economics of future resources” to clarify its meaning. Renee explained that the petroleum industry has acknowledged its contribution to climate change, and this course explores that idea as well as the industry’s response. After a brief discussion in conjunction with Renee Love, the UCC decided on the following phrasing:



“This course discusses the energy industry and its contribution to climate change as well as future prospect inventory and economics of future resources.”

Jerry also stated that the changes to the course seemed significant and may be large enough to warrant becoming a new course. Renee explained that the course material had changed as the conversation around this topic had changed to focus more on sustainability, so the course needed to evolve as well.

Erin had additional editing ideas for the course description, but due to time constraints, she planned to discuss them with Renee outside of the meeting, with the catalog email CC'ed by Ted Unzicker's request.

**Outcome:** Postponed

V. Chair Dave Paul closed the meeting at 5:03 pm.

Sydney Beal  
UCC Secretary