

University Curriculum Committee Meeting

Meeting #6, October 30, 2023

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

Dave Paul, Chair*

Dean Panttaja

Francesca Sammarruca

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, Gabriel Potirniche, Rebecca Frost, Renee Love, Jeff Bailey, Jaap Vos, Lisa Victoravich, Mark Groza

I. Chair Dave Paul called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

II. Announcements and Communications

- I. Lindsey Brown explained that in conjunction with past discussions on certificates and programs, the Registrar's office has found that requiring a certificate within a particular program has caused issues in the degree audit system because the system does not know when the certificate is completed because certificates are separate from programs. This means that these programs often require substitution waivers for each of the students to graduate with these degrees. Rebecca Frost added that this can particularly cause issues if the requirements for a certificate change or if a student does not register for the needed certificate. On this, Jeff Bailey added that this process often confuses students because they don't know that they need to sign up for the certificate. Stacey Doumit asked if these could instead be listed as minors in the system, and Rebecca explained that it couldn't because the system lists certificates and minors differently. She added that one of the options they were looking at to solve this issue is for programs to have a checkbox added to the system as part of the requirements for when the certificate is completed. This, Rebecca explained, may more easily prompt students to add the certificate.

After Jerry asked for clarification, Lindsey explained that there's a difference between certificates that can be earned alongside a program (optional certificates) and those that are required for a program, with the issue at hand only pertaining to those in the latter category.

III. October 23, 2023 Minutes were approved.

IV. Old Business

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-24-027

Item(s) Under Consideration: Edit GEOL 462 and HYDR 412; add GEOG 515 and 482; and reactivate and edit GEOL 250, GEOL 511, and GEOL 517

Speaker: Renee Love

Discussion: The GEOL 462 proposal requested a change in the course name, course description, and its availability via distance education (making it available online and in Moscow). This course had been formerly discussed, but the meeting had to close before the discussion on this course could be finished. Erin James and Renee collaborated to edit the previous course description, and the new description had been added to the proposal. There had also formerly been a discussion on changing the course title to “Petroleum Systems and Energy Transitions” instead of “Petroleum Systems and Future Energy”, and she said she would fine with the title change.

The HYDR 412 proposal requested adding a cross-listing, editing the course description and when it’s typically offered, making it available cooperatively, and changing it to be available online or in Moscow.

The GEOG 515 course proposal was a new course that would be used for the new MS in GIS. Lindsey Brown requested that the phrase “newly established” before “field of pyrogeography” be removed so that the course description wouldn’t have to be revised in future years when the field is no longer new. Thus, the new description would begin with “An introduction to the field of pyrogeography that focuses on fire” rather than “An introduction to the newly established field of pyrogeography.” Erin James also pointed out that the “the” before fire in the first sentence should be removed.

Jerry Long asked if the first sentence needed to be adjusted with the removal of “newly established” to convey that the last part of the sentence described the field itself rather than the course (asking specifically if the “that” should be changed).

Steve Shook asked if they planned to make the ESS 482 course required for graduate students in the future, and Renee said that it would likely be an elective. She explained the history of the collaboration with the physics department since the course will be cross and joint-listed with two PHYS courses.

The GEOL 250 course requested changing the course number, the course title, the course description, when it’s offered. It also requests making it co-op and available in person.

The GEOL 511 course proposal had a change in the title, the course description, and its online availability. It also requested adding a cross-listing and a prerequisite and making it available cooperatively.

The GEOL 517 proposal requested changing the course title, added a joint listing, making it three credits, removing repeatability, editing the course description and when it’s offered, making it available cooperatively, and making it available online and in person. Erin James requested removing the second to last sentence in the course description because it sounds more like a justification for the course. Renee suggested editing it to read as “This class will cover how climate change affected Earth...”

Outcome: Approved unanimously

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-24-027

Item(s) Under Consideration: Add ESS 102

Speaker: Renee Love

Discussion: Stacy Isenbarger shared that as someone who previously taught fundamental courses, she was concerned about the faculty load since this courseload would be shared among the department's faculty. She also mentioned feedback that she received from advisors, who requested they either remove the 1-2 credit introductory course or make it a 3-credit course so that students don't have to take 6 classes their first year, which overwhelms some students. Jerry concurred and asked Gwen Gorzelsky to share the research she'd previously cited when the College of Law was making similar changes for first year students. Gwen said that there is research on overload that describes students being able to process information better when they aren't overwhelmed.

Stacy asked if there were other options such as extracurriculars where students could get the same information without a class being required. Stacey said that she could see both sides and made the point that students often won't attend events unless they're required to (like in a class). Erin James mentioned that while discussing a similar topic with Sean Butterfield previously, he made the point that when workshops are made into courses, it denies the student the ability to list that course as extracurricular experience.

Renee Love said that she agreed with most of what had already been said about the course. This was largely created as a push from their college for all departments to have introductory classes. Eventually, the plan would be for this course to be required, but they're still working on integrating it.

Stacey Doumit added that for the departments that are moving away from faculty advising, this course would help connect the students to faculty on an earlier timeline, which may be helpful. Lindsey Brown stated that in the literature, it's often one of the best practices for retention to have a freshman year experience course.

Lindsey referenced GEOG 100 titled "Introduction to Planet Earth", which title coincides with the proposed titled of "Welcome to Planet Earth" and asked if their content was different. Renee said that the content was different, but she would be fine with postponing the course to rethink the title and add a syllabus.

Outcome: Postponed

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-24-028

Item(s) Under Consideration: Edit the General Management (MBA)

Speaker: Jeff Bailey, Lisa Victoravich, and Mark Groza

Discussion: This proposal requested changing the program from being available in Coeur d'Alene to being available online as well as updating the curriculum and making it require 39 credits.

Jerry Long asked for clarification on the 12 interdisciplinary elective credit hour requirement, including if there were enough related interdisciplinary electives available. Lisa Victoravich said that these electives could include a variety of subjects, but the program would eventually have its own concentration, and there are enough options available for students to earn the required 12 credits. Jerry asked if students would be aware of their options for this requirement, and Lisa explained that they would while making a study plan with an advisor. Jerry shared a brief concern about approving a course without having a full compilation of what these electives could entail, and he also asked if this program was undergoing a

large enough change to warrant requiring a new program proposal rather than an edit. Gwen Gorzelsky said that she had reached out to the State Board of Education, and they said it did not meet the threshold to require becoming a new program.

Steve Shook said that he noticed that there were many course and program changes, but the course learning outcomes hadn't changed. Lisa said that despite the number of changes, they were all minor changes, so the learning outcomes still fit. Mark Groza added that the learning outcomes were intentionally made to be broad to maintain relevance in future years.

Steve also asked about the self-supporting model used by the program and its related fee structure, sharing a concern to the reference of hiring new faculty and how that relates to the budget. Mark explained that they planned to transition away from the self-support model, which has been discussed with the Provost's Office. Lisa explained that this would make it easier to partner with other units on campus through their courses.

Gwen Gorzelsky said that she'd like to discuss this program proposal with Mark and Lisa again after the meeting concluded since she had misunderstood their intent previously, but she was confident they would be able to come to a conclusion regarding the requested fee structure due to the previous collaboration between the proposal authors and the Provost's Office.

Steve pointed out that the proposal includes a line referencing hiring new faculty and asked for more details, such as where the budget would come from. He clarified that the concern is that the approved curriculum wouldn't be able to be taught because of budget issues. After Lisa asked how much they needed to cover their budget with the UCC, Gwen explained that the State generally requests information such as if a budget requires additional funding or if the funds are being reallocated, but the specifics of the hiring process aren't needed.

Jerry said that the concern they'd had with a previous program proposal that required fund reallocation was that curriculum would have to be changed due to the budget adjustment. Mark explained that they do have the capacity to offer the program and courses, and they are starting with a slow roll out to ensure they have that capacity.

A brief discussion occurred where other committee members shared their concerns regarding the budget plan. Mark gave further details regarding their specific plan for paying for new faculty.

Jerry made the point that the discussion was treating this proposal like it was a new program when it was being edited, and he wanted to ensure that the committee members were analyzing this proposal through that lens.

Magdy Noguera gave more background on the program, explaining that it is listed in the catalog, but it is not currently being taught. This means that they have the capacity to teach the EMBA as is, and then the other major change is just moving online to meet the demand.

Dave Paul summarized by saying that new faculty need to be hired to expand, but the program could be taught as is next year if needed. Mark explained that they would need to hire new faculty regardless of whether this program passed or not due to faculty members leaving or retiring, but they are prepared to offer the courses next year. Stacey Doumit asked for that clarification to be added to the program proposal.

Lindsey Brown asked if this would be an AACSB accredited program, as they may have strict requirements. Lisa said that it would be in the future.

Steve shared a concern that there are already many universities in the surrounding areas that offer online MBA degrees, and from his background in business, he was seeing a decline in enrollments in this type of program. Lisa explained that this is a market for MBA programs and that many of the nearby universities have had successful graduating class numbers. Additionally, alumni have reached out and asked when this program would be available, further indicating the degree interest. Gwen added that Ken Udas believed this program would be successful in the region despite the competition because of the focus placed on experiential learning.

In addressing Steve's concern about enrollment numbers, Jeff Bailey said that it was a program that was highly supported within the department and college alike, with no dissent from any faculty members. This was contrasted with the lack of advocacy seen previously from the faculty when the enrollment numbers had been declining.

Outcome: Approved pending approval of changes to EMBA 512, 514, 521, 522, 524, 525, 533, 543, and 540 and pending collaboration between the proposal authors and the Provost's Office

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-24-028

Item(s) Under Consideration: Edit EMBA 512, 514, 521, 522, 524, 525, and 533, and add EMBA 540

Speaker:

Discussion: The EMBA 512 and 514 proposals requested changing the course title, making it 3 credits, editing the course description and when it's offered, and making it available online. Lindsey Brown noted that there appeared to be several changes and asked if the changes for the courses (and the other EMBA courses) changed 50% or more of the content. Lisa explained that it was several tweaks, but it maintains at least 50% of the original content.

The EMBA 521 and 533 proposals requested changing the course title, updating it to three credits, editing the course description and when it's typically offered, removing the prerequisite, and making it available online. On the EMBA 521 proposal, Erin James requested that the first sentence be removed from the course description because it is unnecessary in describing the contents of the course. Magdy Noguera approved of the change for her college.

The EMBA 522, 524, and 525 proposals requested changing the course title, credits, course description, when it's offered, and the learning outcomes as well as making it available online. Dave Paul clarified that the EMBA 525 course used merged content from EMBA 509, so EMBA 509 would be dropped in the future, to which Magdy agreed. Jerry asked Lindsey if a new course number would be required when two courses merged into one, and she said they had kept one of the numbers before as was done here.

Lindsey asked how similar EMBA 540 was to OM 370 since they shared similar course titles. Lisa Victoravich explained that the EMBA 540 course focused more on application and experiential learning while OM 370 focused more on terminology for undergraduate students.

Outcome: Approved unanimously

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-24-028

Item(s) Under Consideration: Edit EMBA 543

Speaker:

Discussion: The EMBA 543 proposal requested changing the course name, number of credits, course description, when it's offered, and learning outcomes as well as making it online. Steve Shook pointed out that the change to the course description was significantly different and was concerned that it wouldn't accurately reflect the content past students had taken. Lindsey Brown said that they could change the course number to better distinguish between the old version of the course and the proposed version of the course. Jeff Bailey said the core idea of using data to make decisions remained the same, and the primary change to the course and course description is adding the MIS methods of data analysis.

After a short discussion, it was decided that rather than editing the existing EMBA 543, a new course proposal with the new content would be required.

Outcome: Postponed until it is submitted as a new course proposal

V. Chair Dave Paul closed the meeting at 4:59 pm.

Sydney Beal
UCC Secretary