

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, Michael Lowry, Elise Kokenge, Mark Nielsen, Rebecca Frost, Aleksandar Vakanski, Chantal Vella, Dakota Roberson, and Renee Love

- I. Chair Dave Paul called the meeting to order at 3:31 pm.
- II. Announcements and Communications
 - I. Dave Paul reminded the committee of the importance of debating issues within a proposal, but he also reminded them of the importance of staying on task so that all agenda items can be completed. Stacey Isenbarger apologized for any part she may have had in keeping the committee from progressing through the past agendas.
- III. October 30, 2023 minutes were approved.
- IV. Old Business

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-24-019

Item(s) Under Consideration: Add the prefix ESHS; drop the prefixes H&S and PEP; inactivate H&S 498 and PEP 301; Edit MVSC/PEP 430

Speaker: Dave Paul

Discussion: This was another review of the subject prefix change after receiving additional documentation (the inactivation and edit requests for H&S 498, PEP 301, and MVSC/PEP 430) regarding the course number overlaps.

Outcome: Approved unanimously

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-24-029

Item(s) Under Consideration: Add CE 417 and CE 476

Speaker: Dave Paul

Discussion: These proposals requested adding an undergraduate joint-listing alongside their existing graduate level course counterparts.

Outcome: Approved unanimously

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-24-031

Item(s) Under Consideration: Edit NRS 476, NRS 507, and NRS 591

Speaker: Dave Paul

Discussion: The NRS 476 proposal requested a change in the prerequisites, the course description, the learning outcomes, and the semester when the course is typically offered. The NRS 507 proposal requested a cross-listing with Law and a change to being available online. The NRS 591 proposal requested changing the course description, making it available cooperatively, updating the learning outcomes, and editing when it is typically offered.

Outcome: Approved unanimously

V. New Business

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-24-032

Item(s) Under Consideration: Edit ENVS 477, FOR 516, NR 101, WLF 550, and WLF 552

Speaker: Steve Shook

Discussion: The ENVS 477 proposal requested adding a cross-listing with the College of Law. The FOR 516 proposal requested a change in the title, the course description, the semester it is typically offered, the grading mode, and the cross and joint listed courses (adding WR 516 and FOR 416). Dave Paul noted that the form also indicated that the course was available in person in Moscow, but the rationale indicated that the course would only be available online. Erin James also expressed confusion about the short title since it no longer correlates to the newly proposed long title. After a short discussion, the committee decided to change the short title to "Hydro Effects of Forest Mgmt."

In addressing Dave's question of its teaching location, Steve Shook said that this course was likely taught virtually only through a synchronous meeting, which was supported by the attached course syllabus. Steve confirmed that the line regarding in-person attendance should be edited.

Erin also pointed out that the penultimate sentence of "May take only once" and asked if it was redundant information. Ted Unzicker agreed that it was unnecessary information. Steve added that this may have previously been taught as a special topics course, and this line may have been left over from that.

The NR 101 proposal requested changing when it is offered and the learning outcomes. The WLF 550 course proposal requested changing the course title, the course description, the prerequisites, the grading mode, and the learning outcomes. Jerry Long asked if the "S:" in the short title was necessary or if it was a typo. Erin explained that having that could cause confusion for students who may read it as meaning the course has subtitles. It was decided that the "S:" would be removed from the short title.

The WLF 552 proposal requested an update to the course description.

Outcome: Approved unanimously with the edits to FOR 516 and WLF 550

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-24-032

Item(s) Under Consideration: Edit FOR 230 and add FOR 43X

Speaker: Steve Shook

Discussion: The FOR 230 proposal requested changing the title, the number of credits, course description, the learning outcomes, and removing the prerequisite, prerequisite/corequisite, and joint-listed course. Jerry Long asked for clarification on whether the removed joint-listed course (FOR 430) was intended to remain in the catalog. Steve Shook explained that the now FOR 230 course would keep much of the same material from the original course, but a new course (FOR 43X) was being created with parts of the former 430 course and new material. Thus, FOR 430 would be inactivated and removed, with its material now being taught in FOR 230 and FOR 43X. Steve explained that this would help students pursuing their associate degree who do not need the advanced information. Ted Unzicker asked if the new 43X course would be equivalent to the FOR 230 course, and Steve said it likely would not be. Ted expressed a concern that the CIM system may try to create an equivalency between them, but the Registrar's Office would experiment before adding these course changes and check with Steve before officially inputting it into the system to ensure that it is correct.

After Stacy Isenbarger's confusion about the X in the 43X, Ted explained that they would add that course with a number as close to 430 as possible.

Outcome: Approved unanimously

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-24-032

Item(s) Under Consideration: Add ENVS 408 and edit Natural Resources (MNR)

Speaker: Dave Paul

Discussion: Stacey Doumit said the title of the ENVS 408 course sounded similar to another course that passed through the committee previously and asked if there was overlap. After a short discussion, it was decided that due to the difference in departments and colleges between the courses, there likely wasn't an extensive amount of overlap.

The Natural Resources (MNR) proposal requested the removal of a course and the addition of several existing courses as well as the removal of a project as an option (leaving only the option for a portfolio). Dave Paul asked why the NRS 515 course listed under the Environmental Education and Science Communication Option didn't appear to be available in the catalog. Elise Kokenge explained that this was likely a typo and should instead be ENVS 515. Jerry Long noted that one of the bins under that same option was titled "Policy Planning and Law", but none of the course options seemed to involve policy planning and law. Elise said that those bins usually read as "Policy Planning and Society", and Erin added that all the other options listed that particular bin under that heading. After a brief discussion, the committee decided that the bin name was likely an error and decided to change the name to "Policy, Planning, and Society" instead.

Outcome: Approved unanimously with the edits to the Natural Resources (MNR)

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-24-033

Item(s) Under Consideration: Edit BIOL 300, BIOL 421, BIOL 444, BIOL 446, MATH 144, MATH 385, and MATH 428

Speaker: Mark Nielsen

Discussion: Dave Paul noted that some of the courses had N/A listed in the learning outcomes section, which Mark Nielsen noted was likely because the learning outcomes hadn't changed. The committee decided they would have a conversation on this at a later meeting to decide whether courses would be sent back in the future if they do not add information to this section.

The BIOL 300 proposal requested moving the corequisite course to prerequisites and updating when it is typically offered. Erin James asked for an explanation on the line “Carries no credit after BIOL 380” in the course description. Erkan Buzbas explained that some courses share material that’s very similar, but it’s just taught in a different way, hence why a student can’t receive credit again. Mark Nielsen expanded on this, citing two calculus courses (engineering calculus and survey of calculus) where this same practice exists. Erin requested changing the phrasing, with Dave suggesting “Cannot be taken for credit after BIOL 380” as a replacement. Mark spoke on behalf of the department and said that the change would likely be fine.

The BIOL 421 proposal requested changing the title and updating when it is typically offered. Jerry Long asked if “Spring only” should be removed from the course description, and Ted Unzicker agreed that it should be removed so that the information isn’t duplicated in the catalog. This change would apply to all the BIOL courses listed on the agenda that had this same issue.

The BIOL 444 proposal requested changing the prerequisites and when it’s typically offered. Mark explained that both prerequisite options are genetics courses, so either course adequately prepares a student for BIOL 444.

The BIOL 446 proposal requested adding an undergraduate joint-listing to an existing graduate level course, changing the prerequisites, and updating when it is typically offered.

The MATH 144 proposal requested a change in the course title and course description as well as the removal of a prerequisite and the addition of a corequisite. Mark explained that these changes were being mandated by the State Board of Education. Jerry asked for clarification on the removal of the line “Not open for credit to students who have previous high school or college credit in trigonometry” from the course description, and Mark explained that they found this was not possible to enforce. Steve asked for clarification on the use of concurrency with the MATH 143 and MATH 170 courses. Mark explained that they’d like students to either have taken those courses previously or take them simultaneously. It was noted that this indicated that it should be moved to the prereq/coreq line, not the co-requisites only line, so that edit would be made to the course.

The MATH 385 proposal requested removing the need for permission as a prerequisite and changing it to be typically offered in the fall.

The MATH 428 proposal requested a change in the course description, the prerequisites, the semester it is typically offered, the learning outcomes and the course’s availability via distance education as well as the removal of the subtitles. Mark noted that they would also like to add ENGR 212 as another prerequisite option along with CS 120 and MATH 183, citing Gabriel Potirniche’s comment on the document for the exact phrasing. There was a brief conversation on whether that course had already been approved, and Magdy Noguera found that it had already been approved by the UCC, so the committee could move forward with that added prerequisite. Mark also explained that it is available as an engineering outreach course, so it is available online at most locations and in person in Moscow. Dave clarified that due to this, the section listing where students can attend in person should be edited to include only Moscow with the online availability listed above, and Mark agreed.

Outcome: Approved unanimously with the aforementioned edits

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-24-033

Item(s) Under Consideration: Edit PHYS 200 and PHYS 484

Speaker: Mark Nielsen

Discussion: The PHYS 200 course proposal requested a title change, the removal of the subtitles, a change to the course description, and an update to when it is typically offered. Steve Shook asked if this course was aimed toward students who were undecided on their major. Mark explained that though it sounds like they're changing the function of the course, it is not in actuality since this course has always functioned as their introductory physics major course, and the use of the term "seminar" has not sufficiently conveyed that.

Ted Unzicker added that 200 was a standard course number, so this change is an option, but doing so would remove the possibility of having another 200-level seminar course in the future. Mark said that they were likely aware of that and would still like to proceed with the change.

Returning to Steve's question, Jerry asked if his prior comment had more to do with the use of the phrase "Physics major" than the content. Steve explained that was correct and said that this may limit other students who would like an introduction. Mark explained that in those cases, students would likely be better served by taking an introductory physics course such as PHYS 100 since this course is catered more primarily for physics majors.

The PHYS 484 proposal requested a change in the title, course description, prerequisites, learning outcomes, and semester when it is typically offered. Mark Nielsen explained that they now have more expertise in astrophysics due to the addition of a new faculty member, so they would like to split the subject matter between PHYS 484 and PHYS 489. Jerry Long noted that the short title hadn't changed, which may cause confusion. After a short discussion, the committee settled on changing the name to "Astrophysics Stars Planets" to distinguish between the two courses, which Mark agreed to.

Outcome: Approved unanimously with the aforementioned edits

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-24-033

Item(s) Under Consideration: Add PHYS 489 and BCB 524

Speaker: Mark Nielsen

Discussion: The PHYS 489 course was being proposed as part of the split of material with PHYS 484. Erin James noted that the last word in the title ("holes") should be capitalized. Steve Shook asked if this would be part of a curriculum, and Mark Nielsen explained that it would be an elective course. There was a brief discussion in which the committee tried to establish the author's intent of indicating that the course had subtitles but was not repeatable. In the end, the decision was made to send the course back for the author to edit that portion of the form.

Erin said that the BCB course was listed as being repeatable, but she noted that it did not list the maximum number of credits available, which could cause problems in the future. Stacy Isenbarger agreed, explaining that this had been a problem that had previously arisen in her college. The decision was made to send this proposal back to the author to clarify the maximum number of credits and edit the form.

Steve Shook also pointed out the second sentence of the course description and asked why this course would include information such as Python that's already taught in another course. Erkan Buzbas

explained that this course would likely be discussing more specifically how those tools such as Python are used within their specific area rather than having a general understanding of it.

Outcome: Postponed

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-24-033

Item(s) Under Consideration: Inactivate PHYS 425

Speaker: Dave Paul

Discussion: PHYS 425 is being replaced by the other proposed physics courses, so this course is no longer needed. Steve Shook asked if this inactivated course that is being replaced by PHYS 489 and 425 could be brought back in the future, and Ted Unzicker said that it should not because of how it is being used to replace those courses. Jerry Long noted that this course seemed to focus more generally on relativity while the replacement courses studied more specific areas, so it could in theory be brought back in the future if needed.

Outcome: Approved unanimously

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-24-034

Item(s) Under Consideration: Add ECE 586 and INDT 420

Speaker: Dakota Roberson

Discussion: The ECE 586 course had previously been offered as a special topics course, and they would like to now make it a permanent course. Magdy Noguera asked for clarification on the in-person locations this course could be taught at, and Dakota Roberson explained that while he would be the only one teaching it in person in Idaho Falls for now, it has the capacity and potential to be taught by additional professors in both Coeur d'Alene and Moscow.

Steve Shook expressed a concern about INDT 420 that the course description did not describe technology at all as is indicated in the long title; thus, it may be too similar to courses that are already being taught. Magdy Noguera agreed. Aleksandar Vakanski explained that they had previously had a business course that their students took, but they ran into difficulties with students enrolling in the course. He clarified that they had tried to reach out to the MHR department to resolve this, but they had not been able to come to a satisfactory conclusion. Jerry Long also asked for confirmation that this was an undergraduate INDT course of an existing graduate level course (TM 520), and Aleksandar agreed.

Outcome: Approved unanimously

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-24-034

Item(s) Under Consideration: Edit ENGR 350, NE 524, NE 544, and TM 512

Speaker: Dave Paul

Discussion: The ENGR 350 proposal requested dropping the corequisite, changing the typically offered section, removing the co-op status, and updating the learning outcomes.

The NE 524 proposal requested adding a cross-listing, updating when it is typically offered, changing the in-person class location to include Moscow and Idaho Fall, and editing the learning outcomes.

The NE 544 proposal requested editing the course description, adding NE 585 as a prerequisite, changing when it is typically offered, updating the learning outcomes, and making it available via distance education and taught in person in Moscow in addition to being taught in Idaho Falls.

The TM 512 proposal requested removing the repeatability status, removing “permission” as a prerequisite, updating when it’s typically offered, making it available via distance education and in Idaho Falls, and changing the learning outcomes. Jerry Long also pointed out that this proposal was also being reactivated in addition to the listed changes.

Outcome: Approved unanimously

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

Sydney Beal
UCC Secretary