

## University Curriculum Committee Meeting

Meeting #9, November 27, 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, Rebecca Frost, Jerry McMurtry, Sandra Reineke, Alex Hollingshead, Mark Nielsen, Russell Qualls

- I. Chair Dave Paul called the meeting to order at 3:31 pm.
- II. November 13, 2023 minutes were approved.
- III. Announcements and Communications
  - I. Dave asked for the committee's preference on meeting during December, and it was decided that UCC would meet once more before the semester ended (Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>).
- IV. Old Business

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

**Item(s) Under Consideration:** Review the "Add 'Global Honors'" to the list of cumulative curricular experiences" proposal

**Speaker:** Sandra Reineke

**Discussion:** This has previously been brought to the committee, and UCC had asked for clarification on what would be considered part of the global honors experiences. Lindsey Brown asked for a definition of what the global honors would entail so that students could be better informed. Sandra Reineke explained the background of the proposal by talking about how this proposal would add another option alongside the existing thesis or portfolio options for the honors program. She discovered this option after attending a conference where many large universities had global honors options, and they found having it provided more value to a student's experience and increased recruitment. Because of this, the honors committee has created a table of carefully considered options that would qualify as part of this new option, which was circulated among the committee. Because the thesis and portfolio options aren't laid out in specific terms in the catalog, this proposal would like to follow that same pattern to keep it flexible for students.

Lindsey asked for further clarification on whether this would be better known as “global honors” or a “global honors experience”, adding that using the attached word “experience” or linking the table to the catalog in some way may make it more easily understood by students. Sandra explained these options are explained thoroughly with their current thesis and portfolio options through an honors advisor and the honors courses, so students will continue to receive ample explanations through these avenues.

Jerry pointed out a line that may be read to indicate that only the global honors option requires 4 credits while the other options may not. He suggested the sentence be rewritten to be “Complete 4 credits of the "honors thesis," the "honors portfolio," or the "global honors" option” to avoid this issue, and Sandra agreed to the change.

**Outcome:** Approved with the aforementioned edit

**UCC Agenda Item Number:** UCC-24-22

**Item(s) Under Consideration:** Edit INTR 440 and 454

**Speaker:** Sandra Reineke

**Discussion:** The INTR 440 proposal requested a change in the course description, the typically offered section, and the course outline and description. This change reflects the changes requested in the previous proposal regarding the addition of the global honors experience. Jerry Long pointed out an unnecessary capitalization of “global” and “honors” and asked if that was done intentionally. Sandra said that it was not and that the phrase should be lowercase. This change would also be applied to the INTR 454 course description.

The INTR 454 proposal requested changing the title, making it repeatable for up to six credits, updating when it’s typically offered, and revising the course description. Jerry Long noted a grammatical error in the last sentence of the course description with the use of a singular article connecting to a plural noun. Steve Shook also asked that sentence should include “and/or” instead of just “or” so that students who take the course twice may complete different options each time. Sandra explained that students typically only completed one honors track, and the option to repeat the course is there primarily to allow students more time to polish their project. Dave checked with Erin James with the language of that sentence to ensure it would be edited to be grammatically correct, and she confirmed that his version of the line was right.

Steve, returning to the discussion on the course’s repeatability, clarified that a student could work on a project and not complete it in a semester, so they would receive an incomplete until the project is completed when the course is taken a second time. Sandra explained that some students like to work ahead, hence why it may need to be taken again. Steve clarified that the course description currently states that a thesis, portfolio, or experience will be completed during the course, but it sounded like the phrasing didn’t quite convey the purpose of the course or its repeatability. Sandra concurred, adding that a more open-ended phrasing should have been used. Dave Paul suggested removing the entire sentence to avoid any confusion, and Sandra agreed to the change.

**Outcome:** Approved with one abstention and with the aforementioned edits

**UCC Agenda Item Number:** UCC-24-019

**Item(s) Under Consideration:** Edit English Teaching Minor

**Speaker:** Alex Hollingshead

**Discussion:** This proposal had been previously seen by the committee, and UCC requested that the proposal include a more in-depth description of what the advanced composition elective would entail. Alex explained that the options for the elective have since been added, with the amendment that one of the listed courses (ENGL 401) be removed since it will be inactivated soon. Lindsey Brown pointed out that by removing the course (which was already listed as a required course and was incorrectly listed as an elective option in the change description text), the total credits would drop from 26 to 23.

Erin James also noted that ENGL 291 and 292, which would be listed as elective options, are being replaced by ENGL 290, so those courses should also be replaced.

Steve Shook also noted that 200-level courses typically aren't considered advanced composition courses and asked if it should be called a composition elective instead. Alex said that it was phrased like that due to catalog labeling, and Lindsey said that it could be changed if they preferred. Erin James said that she supported changing it, and she added that the rationale for it was probably that ENGL 101 and 102 were considered composition courses, so anything beyond that may be considered advanced, but she still agreed with the change.

**Outcome:** Approved with the aforementioned edits

V. New Business

**UCC Agenda Item Number:** UCC-24-038

**Item(s) Under Consideration:** Discontinue Biological Sciences Teaching Major, English Teaching Major (34 credits), History Teaching Major (33 credits), Mathematics Teaching Major (36 credits), Chemistry Teaching Major, Earth Science Teaching Major, English Teaching Major (46 credits), French Teaching Major, Geography Teaching Major, German Teaching Major, History Teaching Major (51 credits), Mathematics Teaching Major (51 credits), Physics Teaching Major, Political Science Teaching Major, and Spanish Teaching Major

**Speaker:** Alex Hollingshead

**Discussion:** Alex explained that by removing these programs, it would help streamline the process for transfer students and for advising. This would also remove the prescriptive element of the programs. Thus, students would choose a teaching minor and complete it as the basic requirements, then further build upon that to either the 20, 30, or 45 credits option.

**Outcome:** Approved

**UCC Agenda Item Number:** UCC-24-039

**Item(s) Under Consideration:** Review policy change in proposal "Academic Requirements for Graduate Admission concerning letters of recommendation"

**Speaker:** Jerry McMurtry

**Discussion:** This proposal would remove the requirement for graduate program applications to have three letters of recommendation, which allows departments to choose requirements that are more personalized (such as requiring letters from individuals in specific positions, a portfolio, only two letters, etc). Erin James asked who requested this change, and Jerry explained that about 20% of applications do not get completed due to this requirement, and applications may not adequately address the program needs, so it would help all programs personalize their applications. Stacy Isenbarger expressed her support of the proposal, explaining that this issue caused frustration for her when she was in a graduate

coordinating role. She also mentioned that she liked that it would help applications continue through the process faster since applications are currently stopped at COGS until this requirement is fulfilled, which Jerry agreed with. Dave Paul asked if applications could still be stopped by COGS due to missing recommendation letters if requested by the department, and Jerry said that they could still do that if the departments preferred that.

Stacy shared that she often had to do workarounds to get applications through, and Steve Shook said that the university likely had lost some high-quality students due to this issue, so he supported this change.

**Outcome:** Approved

**UCC Agenda Item Number:** UCC-24-039

**Item(s) Under Consideration:** Update catalog entry for MAT Math, MAT Secondary Ed, and second master's degrees

**Speaker:** Jerry McMurtry

**Discussion:** The MAT Math and Secondary Ed proposal requested updating the catalog in order to match what is currently occurring within these programs. Mark Nielsen expressed his support of the proposal, but he also pointed out a few editorial changes to be made. These included the following changes: adding "mathematics" after MAT in the first sentence of the first paragraph and updating the department name from "Department of Mathematics" to "Department of Mathematics and Statistical Science."

Jerry explained that the purpose of the MAT Math degree is for currently practicing mathematics teachers, while the MAT in Secondary Education degree was aimed toward individuals who are not practicing teachers, so this creates two different focuses.

On editorial changes, Erin James also noted that MAT and M.A.T. were both used, so it may be better to add or remove the periods to standardize it. Mark said that he preferred removing the periods. Erin and Lindsey both looked over the catalog and concluded that degrees are usually written with the periods. Jerry Long added that if mathematics was going to be spelled out, "ed" in "secondary ed" should also be spelled out.

Lindsey also asked if the "B.A. or B.S." could be removed after bachelor's degree in order to make it more inclusive for students with different bachelor's degrees, such as a B.F.A. Mark agreed with the change. Erkan Buzbas asked if the MAT in Secondary Education should use the phrase "individuals" or "students", and Lindsey said that "students" was more generally used, so that edit would also be added.

Erin also suggested changing "will be required" to "must" to reduce redundancy in the Secondary Ed MAT degree.

**Outcome:** Approved

**UCC Agenda Item Number:** UCC-24-039

**Item(s) Under Consideration:** Review the "Second Master's Degrees" and "Interdisciplinary Studies (M.A. or M.S.) Master of Arts/Master of Science. Major in Interdisciplinary Studies" proposals

**Speaker:** Dave Paul

**Discussion:** The catalog entry reads as allowing 30 credits to be transferred from the Theater Arts M.A. program to the Theater Arts M.F.A., but this should be corrected to 20 since the 30 credits was a typo. Lindsey Brown explained that because it was a substantial change in credits, they decided to send it through UCC.

The interdisciplinary studies degree requested removing the GRE requirement for admission.

**Outcome:** Approved

**UCC Agenda Item Number:** UCC-24-040

**Item(s) Under Consideration:** Review the revised D/F policy in Chemical and Biological Engineering

**Speaker:** Russell Qualls

**Discussion:** Russell first noted that there was another page that didn't end up being included in the document. He summarized that when a student reached a certain number of D's and F's, they could no longer receive the degree. With the recognition that math is foundational for the degree, they are now requesting that MATH 170 and 175 be moved into the section that requires the courses to be passed with a C or better rather than a D. The proposal also requested a policy change by editing the way D's and F's are counted against students in keeping in line with the practices at the Registrar's Office.

Lindsey Brown expressed a concern regarding how this would impact students due to the sequential nature of the coursework, particularly since nine courses were being included on this list. Russell explained that only two courses were being moved to requiring a grade of C, and they were generally taken during a student's freshman year. Lindsey noted that in one of the programs, the labs were listed as requiring a grade of C, but in the other, the labs were not listed in that same category. She was also concerned about how the prerequisites would be tracked in the system since this change is only listed in the program and not the course descriptions, so any errors students ran into would be hard to track back to this program regulation.

Dave was still unclear on the exact changes and was concerned about the productivity of the conversation, so he requested specific documentation with markup for the requested edits.

After the meeting, Gabriel Potirniche and Ted Unzicker discussed the changes, and they concluded that the miscellaneous forms were redundant due to the same change being processed in the program forms, so these miscellaneous proposals would be shredded, and the program proposal would proceed instead.

**Outcome:** Postponed

VI. Chair Dave Paul closed the meeting at 4:45 pm.

Sydney Beal  
UCC Secretary