

University Curriculum Committee Meeting

Meeting #13, February 5, 2024

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

Dave Paul, Chair*

Dean Panttaja

Francesca Sammarruca

Erin James*

Stacy Isenbarger*

Stacey Doumit*

Magdy Noguera*

Kyle Howerton*

Steve Shook*

Erkan Buzbas*

Emad Kassem*

Jerry Long*

Hanwen Dong*

Lindsey Brown

Emma Johnston*

Nate Trachimowicz

Gwen Gorzelsky

Guests present: Rebecca Frost, Ted Unzicker, Aleta Quinn, Janis Johnson, Ken Udas, Trevor White, Jaap Vos, Yumna Kurdi, Mark Nielsen, and Jean-Marc Gauthier

- I. Chair Dave Paul called the meeting to order at 3:31.
- II. January 29, 2024 meeting minutes did not require edits.
- III. Announcements and Communications
 - a. Dave announced that if there was extra time, per Steve Shook's request last week, the Vandal Gateway Program and the emergency policy that no longer requires ACT/SAT scores for admission would be discussed at the end of the meeting.
- IV. Old Business

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-24-053

Item(s) Under Consideration: Add Bioethics Undergraduate Certificate

Speaker: Dave Paul

Discussion: Jerry Long asked why this was considered old business, and Dave Paul explained that the committee simply ran out of time to discuss it. Jerry asked if the line "All required coursework must be completed with a grade of C or better (O-10-a)" was redundant and could be removed. Sydney Beal said that it was standard catalog formatting, so although it was a given, it could stand as is.

Outcome: Approved unanimously

- V. New Business

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-24-054

Item(s) Under Consideration: Edit ANTH 453

Speaker:

Discussion: The proposal requested changing the number, adding subtitles, making it repeatable for up to six credits, editing in the course description, adding a prerequisite, and adding a joint-listed course.

Jerry Long pointed out that the “e.g.” should be punctuated with consistency and should be “e.g.” He also suggested removing “etc.” and “among other issues” as these are not necessary when using “e.g.” Erin James suggested changing “including” to “include” in the sentence “Additional projects/assignments required for graduate credit including taking on a supervisory role in group projects.” Jerry further added that the segment after “including” could be removed and left up to the instructor, and Erin agreed that sounded better.

Steve Shook explained that his understanding of the course was that it was a technique-based course, so he questioned whether a student would be learning new material upon repeating the course for credit. Since there wasn't a representative to address Steve's question, the committee decided to roll the course back until a representative could attend.

Outcome: Postponed

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-24-054

Item(s) Under Consideration: Change AFST subject prefix to BLST

Speaker: Janis Johnson

Discussion: This change was requested in conjunction with the previously approved program name change from Africana Studies to Black Studies. No further discussion required.

Outcome: Approved unanimously

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-24-055

Item(s) Under Consideration: Change the EMBA subject prefix to MBA

Speaker: Dave Paul

Discussion: This change was requested in conjunction with the previously approved changes to the General Management MBA.

Outcome: Approved unanimously

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-24-056

Item(s) Under Consideration: Edit ENVS 523, FOR 231, and FOR 272

Speaker: Steve Shook, Jaap

Discussion: The ENVS 523 proposal requested adding a cross-listing with a Law course and removing BIOP 523. There was some confusion with the cross-listed course since there had previously not been a Law course attached to the proposal, but Sydney Beal explained that the course number had since been added. Stacey Doumit asked for further details on the removal of BIOP 523, and Steve Shook explained that the Bioregional Planning program had been discontinued, so the courses had been distributed to other programs.

Sydney said that Jaap from Environmental Science had no preference on the Law number used, and she asked if the College of Law had a preference. Jerry said they did not, so the suggested 523 was fine.

The FOR 231 proposal requested removing the prerequisite, changing the corequisite, making it typically available every fall rather than fall in odd years, and changing the geographical location to Moscow.

The FOR 272 proposal requested changing the course title, editing the course description, and reducing the credits from 3 to 2. Magdy Noguera pointed out that students may be confused by the use of “apps” in the short title because it may have a different meaning for them. Steve said that students would likely understand because it is commonly used in the GIS field. Erin James suggested removing “Apps” from the short title, and Steve agreed to the change.

Jerry asked if it needed to be specified that the field trips were in the early morning, and Steve said the trips are always in the early morning, so having that time frame in the catalog wouldn’t cause problems. He also explained that some students claimed that school days do not start until 8 am when these trips often require leaving at 5 or 6 am, so this would help set students’ expectations for the course.

Outcome: Approved unanimously with edits

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-24-056

Item(s) Under Consideration: Edit FOR 461 and NRS 482

Speaker:

Discussion: The FOR 461 proposal requested adding “lab” to the course title, changing the prefix from REM to FOR, editing the course description, and changing it to be typically offered in spring. Erin asked about why WLF 220 was showing up as a prerequisite change, and Sydney explained that it was because the period was removed, and the software shows that change as the whole word or number being changed rather than just the punctuation mark. Ted Unzicker added that the period was removed so that it shows up in the catalog correctly.

Stacey asked if it was going from REM to FOR because it is moving to the Ecology and Ecosystem Science program, and Steve said that was correct.

Jerry asked when an “L” was added to a course number to indicate it was a lab course, and Ted Unzicker explained that they are usually added when they are lab courses that are tied to lecture courses, such as CHEM 111 and CHEM 111L. This meant that even though FOR 461 was a lab course, it wasn’t tied to a lecture course, so it didn’t require the additional “L”.

Stacey asked Steve if REM was aware of the change, and Steve said they were.

The NRS 482 proposal requested changing the course location to the Taylor Research Station.

Outcome: Approved unanimously

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-24-056

Item(s) Under Consideration: Add WLF 558

Speaker: Dave Paul

Discussion: This course had been previously reviewed, and the committee had requested that the proposal author consult with the Math Department to ensure there was enough difference in course material from existing courses. Erkan Buzbus explained that he had reviewed the material with the instructor and felt it did not conflict with any existing math courses.

Magdy Noguera pointed out that some of the prerequisites included general proficiency or knowledge rather than specific coursework and asked if the prerequisites should just be courses and if general proficiency should be listed as recommended preparation in a different section. Ted Unzicker and Dave Paul pointed out that it was a graduate level course, so prerequisites were not enforced anyway. Ted further pointed out that some instructors still add information to graduate level prerequisites to inform students. Erkan pointed out a grammatical error in “proficiency”, which would be fixed when approved.

Jerry asked if “instructor permission” was being removed from the prerequisites because it was not necessary, and Steve agreed. Erkan pointed out that it may be helpful to have that information listed for international students who do not have the background information to know they can request permission from instructors, and Magdy agreed. Jerry said that this information should be standardized to be included in each course or should be removed from each course to maintain catalog consistency. After a brief discussion, it was decided that it would be left in the course description for this course.

Outcome: Approved unanimously with edits

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-24-057

Item(s) Under Consideration: Edit ATD 424 and SOIL 446

Speaker: Trevor White and Stacey Doumit

Discussion: The ATD 424 proposal requested a course title change. Jerry Long asked if all their studio courses had undergone this change, and Trevor White explained that they had and that this was the last one to pass through due to additional required workflow steps.

The SOIL 446 proposal requested a change from 1-3 to 3 credits, the removal of the repeatability option, and a change to only being available online. Dave pointed out that it was still listed as having subtitles, but they were now removing its repeatability option. Trevor explained that this was likely a residual change that had not been switched over, so he and Stacey agreed that the subtitles could be removed.

Outcome: Approved unanimously with edits

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-24-058

Item(s) Under Consideration: IFIT 108

Speaker: Dave Paul

Discussion: This item was added to the agenda by mistake and did not need approval. Jerry Long asked the reason for the title change, and Sydney Beal explained that due to the software, the short title had to be 26 characters or less. Changing the short title enabled the other proposal change (a fee change) to be processed. Ted Unzicker clarified that the 26-character maximum was only for courses with subtitles. There was a brief discussion on continuing to discuss the topic, and it was decided that it would be discussed later in the meeting.

Outcome: No approval needed

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-24-058

Item(s) Under Consideration: Edit MVSC 201

Speaker: Dave Paul

Discussion: This proposal requested changing in the course title, removing the prerequisites due to the course recently becoming a general education course, editing the course description, changing when it is typically offered to every semester (fall, spring, or summer), and changing it to be available in Moscow.
Outcome: Approved unanimously with edits

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-24-059

Item(s) Under Consideration: Edit PHYS 111, PHYS 112, and STAT 251

Speaker: Mark Nielsen

Discussion: The PHYS 111 and 112 proposals requested revising the course description by putting one sentence in parentheses and moving it to the end of the description. The STAT 251 proposal requested a change to the prerequisites.

Jerry Long noted that the STAT 251 course had the same phrasing that was being changed in the PHYS 111 and 112 proposals and asked why that was not being changed in this proposal. Mark Nielsen said that they came from different departments, so the departments requested different phrasings. He also said that since it was an editorial change, it was likely that the proposal author would not feel strongly about it, so he was open to changes.

Erin James pointed out a grammatical error (a missing “be” between “will” and “not” in the first sentence) and requested editing it. She alternatively suggested following the same format used in the PHYS 111 and 112 proposals by using the same parenthetical phrasing of “carries no credit for STAT 251 after STAT 301 or STAT 416, or for STAT 416 after STAT 251 or STAT 301.” After a brief discussion, it was decided that the first sentence of the course description would be moved to the end, set apart with parentheses, and have a “be” added.

Regarding the prerequisite change, Mark Nielsen explained MATH 108 and MATH 143 were both Algebra courses, but 108 is more akin to a high school course than 143. The department has changed this course from requiring MATH 108 then MATH 143 and would now like to return requiring MATH 108 with a C or better. He explained that MATH 143 is not really required for the STAT 251 course, but it does result in more mathematically mature students, hence the reason for the change back to MATH 108 as a requirement. U of I is one of the few universities in the state that requires MATH 143 for this course, so this change also aligns the university with the state standards.

Erin requested that the MATH 143 prerequisite be typed in all caps to match the existing format.

Jerry pointed out that it was only specified that a student must have a C or better in MATH 108 and not in the other listed courses, and he asked if that meant that MATH 143 was now required with a D or better to take STAT 251. Mark agreed.

Outcome: Approved unanimously with edits

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-24-060

Item(s) Under Consideration: Add VTD 247

Speaker: Jean-Marc Gauthier

Discussion: Stacy Isenbarger said that this had previously been a special topics course that had been successful, so they would like to make it a new course because of student interest. Jean-Marc explained

that a faculty member was also recently hired, so they would be able to handle the additional course load from the addition of this course.

Jerry asked if he would like to remove the specific programming language mentioned (Python) in case it changed in the future, and Jean-Marc said he did not think it would change in the future, and using this term would help students be able to see the difference between this course and computer science courses.

Outcome: Approved unanimously

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-24-052

Item(s) Under Consideration: Edit BE 361

Speaker: Dave Paul

Discussion: This proposal requested a change in the prerequisites and corequisites. No discussion was needed.

Outcome: Approved unanimously

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-24-053

Item(s) Under Consideration: Edit F-1 and O-2 Policies

Speaker: Dave Paul

Discussion: Steve Shook shared his concern about the language used in FSH 2300. He explained that the phrasing, particularly the use of “will”, could imply that faculty members do not have an obligation to report academic dishonesty to the student conduct board, which can result in situations where a student who cheats once and a student who has cheated several times receive the same discipline. Gwen Gorzelsky agreed, citing her own experience when she saw this same type of case occur.

After a brief discussion, Jerry asked Steve if his concern was that the language used implied that a grade could not be changed in response to academic dishonesty until the student had gone through the 2300 process, and Steve agreed. Steve referenced B-10, where it states this policy. He also pointed out that this policy conflicts with academic freedom, which states that an instructor should be able to assign a grade without consideration of their conduct. He requested reaching out to the Dean of Students’ Office with these concerns.

Dave asked if there were any phrasing concerns with this request rather than the FSH 2300 handbook overall, and Steve said he did not have any issues with it in F-1, but he did have concerns with O-2 due to the previously stated concerns. He suggested postponing this proposal until Faculty Senate and the Dean of Students’ Office can discuss the issues in FSH 2300 since these policies reference FSH 2300.

Outcome: Postponed

VI. Vandal Gateway Discussion

Dave shared that he was serving on Faculty Senate when Vandal Gateway was first proposed, and he said it was initially pitched as a way to bring in more students, but it was later explained as a program to help Idaho students. From what he’d last heard, the program had not been effective at helping students or raising money, so he and other members expressed a desire to see statistics on its impact. The

committee discussed UCC's involvement in the process, and it was unclear whether the program was approved by UCC, though it had been discussed at UCC at length when it was first introduced. Jerry said that his understanding was that it was submitted as an emergency policy, so it did not receive approval, and Steve said he believed it was approved temporarily.

Many committee members researched various documents to find information on the approval and start date of the program but found conflicting information. Francesca pointed out that it was an academic support program rather than an academic program, hence why it is not included in the catalog. She also said that VGP is currently operating under legitimate approval, and she would find the record for this approval. Stacey asked why it wasn't considered provisional admission, and Jerry asked why the program was housed under CLASS when it impacted all the colleges.

After some discussion, Dave asked who he should reach out to and what needed to be requested, and the committee decided that he should reach out to Sean Quinlan and request a formal proposal for UCC to review (or an update if it did receive UCC approval), which includes statistics regarding financial implications, enrollment rates, retention rates, etc. Steve also requested that the proposal address the impact on other colleges. Erin planned to email the documents she found on the program to Sydney, who would forward them on for the rest of the committee to review.

VII. Chair Dave Paul closed the meeting at 5:01.

Sydney Beal
UCC Secretary