

University Curriculum Committee Meeting

Meeting #14, February 12, 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, Philip Stevens, Renee Love, Aleksandar Vakanski, Mark Nielsen, Ting-Yen Shih, Leonard Garrison, Chantal Vella, Crissy Oliver, Russell Qualls, Gabriel Potirniche, and Kirsten Pomerantz

- I. Chair Dave Paul called the meeting to order at 3:30.
- II. Francesca Sammarruca explained that her job is to facilitate conversation, so she requested that the line “she also said that VGP is currently operating under legitimate approval, and she would find the record for this approval” be added in the February 5, 2024 minutes after the sentence “Francesca pointed out that it was an academic support program rather than an academic program, hence why it is not included in the catalog” to represent her statements that had been missed. The minutes were then approved with this edit.
- III. Announcements and Communications
 - a. Dave Paul announced that if there is time at the end of the meeting, UCC would discuss the Admissions Standards Committee policy language change and what information had been gathered on the Vandal Gateway Program.
- IV. New Business

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-24-063

Item(s) Under Consideration: Edit Physics (PHD)

Speaker: Mark Nielsen

Discussion: The Physics PHD proposal requested changes to the program description and electives to be added to the curriculum for clarification and the removal of Coeur d’Alene as a location option. Lindsey Brown pointed out that the program description uses “advisor”, “major professor”, and “thesis advisor” and asked if it should all use the term “major professor” so as to not confuse students. Francesca Sammarruca said that the terms were used interchangeably, so making the change could clarify it. David

Paul and Stacy Isenbarger agreed that this would streamline the process, and Mark Nielsen agreed to the change.

Jerry Long requested that a small grammatical error in one of the required courses (a missing space in the PHYS 542 course title) be edited.

Outcome: Approved unanimously

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-24-063

Item(s) Under Consideration: Edit Medical Sciences (BS), Microbiology (BSMICROBIOL), Statistics (BS), Biochemistry (BSBIOCHEM), and Biology (BA or BS)

Speaker:

Discussion: The Medical Sciences (BS) proposal requested the addition of ENGL 202, ENGL 320, BIOL 340, and PLSC 440 to the curriculum as additional options.

The Microbiology (BSMICROBIOL) proposal requested adding the same courses to the curriculum and a minor language correction.

The Statistics (BS) proposal requested changes to curriculum course changes. Stacy Isenbarger asked if the large list of elective options in the degree maps was a helpful tool for advisors, and Lindsey agreed, explaining that all bachelor's degrees should have four- or five-year plans. Stacy asked if degree map edits needed to be reviewed by UCC, and Lindsey said that it would not require UCC approval unless the curriculum requirements changed. Dave pointed out that degree maps can be tricky for international students, so he wouldn't want those to be required or strictly held to.

The Biochemistry (BSBIOCHEM) proposal requested the addition of course elective options. Mark Nielsen noted that there was an error that made it through, so PHYS 348 should not be added.

The Biology (BA or BS) proposal requested the addition of BIOL 340, ENGL 320, and ENGL 202 as elective options.

Outcome: Approved unanimously with edits

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-24-063

Item(s) Under Consideration: Edit Geology (BS)

Speaker: Renee Love

Discussion: This proposal requested that the Physical Geology option be re-added after it was removed last year. Renee Love explained that when the Energy Resiliency and Sustainable Mining was added last, the Physical Geology option was unintentionally removed, and this option is important so students can qualify for the professional licensing exam.

Jerry Long asked what the difference was between an option and an emphasis. Lindsey Brown read the descriptions of the two and explained that an emphasis is 20-49% of the major's required courses and an option is 50% or more of the requirements. Renee explained that they had already done the math, and the options did qualify as options rather than emphases.

Dave also noted that MSE 201 was being replaced with ENGR 215, and Renee explained that this was done by Sydney Beal due to a previous course change that had already been approved that changed the subject prefix and number of MSE 201 to ENGR 215.

Dave noted that there were no learning objectives listed, and Lindsey said that the Registrar's Office had looked into it and couldn't find any learning objectives on file. Dave asked if it could be approved without the learning objectives, and Stacy said that since learning objectives were subjective and UCC didn't have a set stance on it, this proposal shouldn't be held back due to that fact. Erin James agreed, particularly because the option had existed before. Stacy also noted that because learning objectives can be helpful resources, the committee should be stricter with them in the future.

Dean Panttaja noted that new programs require learning outcomes for assessment purposes, but since this is an existing program, it just needs to catch up, so he didn't see a problem with approving this proposal.

Outcome: Approved unanimously

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-24-064

Item(s) Under Consideration: Add the Graphic Design Undergraduate Certificate

Speaker: Dave Paul

Discussion: Stacy said that Delphine pointed out a minor typo to be fixed in the learning outcomes. Otherwise, no discussion was needed.

Outcome: Approved unanimously

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-24-064

Item(s) Under Consideration: Edit Architecture (BSARCH), Virtual Technology and Design (BS), and Interior Architecture and Design (BIAD)

Speaker: Stacy Isenbarger

Discussion: The Architecture (BSARCH) proposal requested some curriculum changes in alignment with course changes that had passed previously. Lindsey Brown pointed out that the last line required 6 elective credits from any discipline and asked if that could be lowered to get the 123 required credits down to 120. Stacy said that one of their accreditation bodies required 123 for the degree.

The Virtual Technology and Design (BS) proposal requested adding the recently approved VTD 247 course as an option to the curriculum. Dave asked about why the learning outcomes appeared to have changed and appeared to be missing in a previous version, and Lindsey explained that they had initially been missing, but after some research, the Registrar's Office found the learning outcomes and added them to the proposal.

The Interior Architecture and Design (BIAD) proposal requested minor edits to courses in the curriculum per course proposals that had previously been approved.

Outcome: Approved unanimously

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-24-065

Item(s) Under Consideration: Add ANTH 580, ANTH 581, and the Indigenous Research and Education Graduate Certificate

Speaker: Philip Stevens and Crissy Oliver

Discussion: Lindsey asked if “nation” and “native” should be capitalized in the ANTH 580 course description, and Philip said that they should be. Magdy Noguera asked why the ANTH 580 course was being offered every other fall, and Philip explained that this was done to match the cohort model they were using for the certificate. He further explained that they were hoping to expand it in the future, but this model matched their current capacity.

Lindsey suggested removing “at the McCall Field Campus” from the ANTH 581 course description so that it could remain more open in case the field trip changed in the future, and Philip agreed with the change. Jerry asked if the last line should have additional punctuation, and after some discussion, it was decided that “allies” should be changed to “allied” to clarify the sentence.

Dave noted that all the courses were approved or in the process of being approved except Land and Water Governance, so he asked if that course was in progress as well. Philip Stevens agreed, explaining that the course was currently being created. Jerry Long suggested removing NRS 504 from the course list to prevent students from fulfilling that requirement with non-applicable special topics courses and changing the “3 credits of electives chosen in consultation with a faculty advisor” to 6 credits instead. That way, faculty advisors could ensure that students’ coursework was all applicable, and the new course could be added to the curriculum later. Philip agreed with the change

Outcome: Approved unanimously with edits

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-24-065

Item(s) Under Consideration: Edit Film and Television (BA or BS), International Studies (BA), Latin American Studies (BA), Music Education (BMUS), Music: Business (BMUS), Music Composition (BMUS), Theatre Arts (BFA), and Theatre Arts (BA or BS)

Speaker: Leonard Garrison,

Discussion: The Film and Television (BA or BS) proposal requested a change in the course title and the addition to two elective options.

The International Studies (BA) proposal requested course changes to shift the focus to incorporate more cultural elements. Magdy Noguera pointed out that the curriculum change from ECON 202 to ECON 201 was not reflected in the degree map, and Lindsey agreed that it would need to be edited to reflect that change. Magdy also said that an International Economics certificate had been previously approved with both ECON 201 and 202, so while she wasn’t an economist and she didn’t object to the changes, she did express some concern that this bachelor’s program would no longer have what may be a foundational course.

The Latin American Studies (BA) proposal requested the addition of a course and the replacement of IS 320 and 321 with IS 311 to reflect course changes made previously.

The Music Education, Music: Business, and Music: Composition (BMUS) proposals requested the addition of MUSA 145 and 146. Leonard Garrison explained that these courses had been removed from the curriculum when the programs needed to drop from 128 total credits to 120, but now that the

programs had the credit amount available, they could be added back in and be more visible for students rather than remaining as a “hidden prerequisite” as was done previously.

The Theatre Arts (BFA) and Theatre Arts (BA or BS) proposals requested a change in the “theatre arts core” curriculum.

Outcome: Approved unanimously with edits

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-24-065

Item(s) Under Consideration: Edit Anthropology (BA or BS)

Speaker:

Discussion: The proposal requested adding a footnote to clarify the degree requirements. Lindsey pointed out that the footnote wasn’t attached to a course in the curriculum, so it may be better to add it as a note elsewhere in the program description. Steve Shook agreed and suggested that it would look cleaner to include the information as a degree requirement rather than a separate footnote.

Lindsey asked if the course credits for ANTH 409 beyond the initial 3 would count as electives required for the major or if they would be counted as general electives that do not count toward the major. Jerry Long argued that the prior line clarified that by stating that up to 15 credits of ANTH 409 could be counted towards the major. After a short discussion, it was decided that the proposal would be postponed until a representative could attend to clarify the language used.

Outcome: Postponed to clarify footnote 3

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-24-066

Item(s) Under Consideration: Edit catalog regulation D-2-d

Speaker:

Discussion: This proposal requested an increase in the dual credit semester limit from 12 to 13 credits. Steve Shook asked why there was a credit limit, and Stacey Doumit agreed because there wasn’t a way to police the number of credits a student took. Jerry suggested that doing so helped students by not allowing them to enroll in a credit amount that may overwhelm them.

Mark Nielsen expressed his dislike for the dual credit program, explaining that it cheats them of a quality general education experience because the high school courses don’t allow students to have the same experience. Stacy Isenbarger agreed that it can be difficult to create similar experiences for students in a high school setting vs a college setting, but she also knew that some teachers worked hard to create a college conducive environment, so some dual credit courses worked well, and others did not.

Steve agreed since the credit limit increase was due to added labs, and Dave agreed since it would reduce the need for student petitions created by the regulation.

Outcome: Approved unanimously

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-24-066

Item(s) Under Consideration: B-4 Regulation Edit

Speaker: Lindsey Brown

Discussion: Lindsey explained that when a student registers for courses for the following semester, their current courses are labelled as being in progress. If they then fail any prerequisite course, they are still enrolled for the upcoming semester, but they no longer have the prerequisites needed. She explained some academic units already police this and ask for the Registrar's Office to drop these students from the courses they're no longer eligible for, but others do not, and some departments may do this late (she cited examples of these requests coming in on the 5th day of the semester). By adding this regulation, it creates a timeline for this procedure and ensures students are adequately prepared for their coursework.

Steve Shook asked who would enforce this, and Lindsey explained that it would be the Registrar's Office through an automated process that would be created during the summer. She added that doing so would remove the human element to the process, such as in special circumstances when a student may be allowed forward without the prerequisites, and Steve said that the policy would still work because a student in that situation could get instructor's permission to be in the course.

Erin James said that there was an extra comma in the policy language change after "when not waived, when students who do not successfully complete a course prerequisite(s) in a prior semester" that could be removed.

Outcome: Approved unanimously with edit

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-24-067

Item(s) Under Consideration: Add B.S.Ed. Elementary Education Online, and edit Elementary Education (BSED)

Speaker: Kirsten Pomerantz

Discussion: Lindsey Brown said that this change should be made to the existing Elementary Education B.S.Ed. rather than submitted as a separate proposal. The committee decided to shred the B.S.Ed. Elementary Education Online proposal and incorporate it into the Elementary Education B.S.Ed.

Erin James had concerns about the way the English courses were listed in the curriculum and asked what English composition courses could be taken that weren't included in the Advanced Composition elective list. Upon further explanation from Kirsten, Erin was also concerned about the way the literature elective was classified and what courses would count toward that requirement. Kirsten explained that the goal was to encourage students to spend more time in English courses, so Erin suggested keeping the advanced composition elective course section and combining the other two English electives into one that's listed as "6 credits of English electives" (not counting ENGL 101 and 102). She also pointed out that ENGL 291 and 292 were being replaced by ENGL 290, so those courses should also be replaced in the list of elective options.

Though Kirsten agreed with the changes, since she was not the director of the program, she recommended rolling the course back so Taylor Raney could review the English electives further.

Outcome: Postponed

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-24-067

Item(s) Under Consideration: Edit Secondary Education (BSED)

Speaker: Kirsten Pomerantz

Discussion: Erin James pointed out that this program had the same error with the ENGL 291 and 292 courses, so she recommended the curriculum be changed now so they didn't have to come back for that issue in the future. This change would be removing ENGL 291 and 292 and replacing them with ENGL 290.

Outcome: Approved unanimously

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-24-0

Item(s) Under Consideration: Edit Exercise, Sport, and Health Sciences BS

Speaker: Chantal Vella, Dave Paul

Discussion: Lindsey Brown asked for more information regarding the health certification listed at the bottom of the curriculum of the Exercise, Sport, and Health Sciences BS. Dave Paul said that it was an outside certificate, but Chantal Vella could provide more information. Lindsey asked why it was included in the catalog if it wasn't a certificate through the University. She added that she would understand if it was an endorsement, but since it was listed as a certificate, that changed her perception of it. Chantal explained that the question should be directed to Taylor Raney in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction since the certification was done through the education program.

After a brief discussion, it was decided that the proposal would be rolled back until Lindsey could discuss the certification with Cate Egan to clarify the issue.

Lindsey also pointed out that the H&S 498 course appeared to be missing, and Sydney Beal explained that this was due to the subject prefix change from PEP and H&S to ESHS that was currently underway.

Outcome: Postponed

V. Admissions Committee Language Edit

Kristin Haltinner suggested editing the current language relating the Admissions Committee's responsibilities to incorporate a collaborative element with the University Curriculum Committee to advise Faculty Senate on admission standards. Steve Shook was confused as to why this was being brought forward, citing Kirstin's email that described the role of the Admissions Committee as existing to help with unique circumstances relating to admissions, which Steve said (from his previous experience on that committee) usually related to GPA requirements or home-schooled students. However, UCC only looks at the general requirements and not exceptions.

Francesca Sammurraca said that it may be helpful to communicate and receive feedback on upcoming admission standard changes, which Steve said conflicted with Kirstin's email regarding admissions for unique circumstances. Steve also added that different committees already communicate when the need arises, so there may not be a need to codify the collaboration.

Jerry Long said that regular collaboration between the committees could be problematic because there should be one objective committee that decides the standards and one committee that votes on unique circumstances.

Stacy Isenbarger added that if UCC was to accept this language change, it should be more direct with what this change would entail.

Kyle Howerton agreed with Steve that the committees have been separated for a reason. He suggested inviting Kirsten to come in person to discuss her proposal.

After a brief discussion, it was decided that Dave would reach out to Kirsten to convey the committee's consensus that a codified collaboration would be unlikely, but UCC would like to hear more about what precipitated the suggestion and what other solutions could be found for any existing issues. Multiple members of the committee agreed with the suggestion that a representative from the Admissions Committee visit UCC annually in the spring.

VI. Chair Dave Paul closed the meeting at 5:04 pm.

Sydney Beal
UCC Secretary