

# University Curriculum Committee Meeting

Meeting #19, April 1, 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, Whitney Vincent, Sande Schlueter, David Pfeiffer, Marlane Martonick, Jeff Seegmiller, Mark Nielsen, Karen Humes, Scott Clyde, and Katharine Kolpan

- I. Chair Dave Paul called the meeting to order at 3:30.
- II. The minutes for the March 25<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved.
- III. Announcements and Communications
  - a. Jerry Long had requested the committee discuss certificate requirements, and Dave had some Vandal Gateway questions, but he planned to discuss these points after the agenda had been completed. Due to some needed discussions on these and other issues and a couple last-minute curriculum changes, the committee planned to meet once more before closing for the year.
- IV. Old Business

**UCC Agenda Item Number:** UCC-24-062

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

**Speaker:** Lindsey Brown

**Discussion:** Lindsey explained that due to recent FSH changes, this language edit would bring the catalog and FSH 2300 into alignment. Steve Shook said that he didn't see the two conflicting with each other and pointed out that the catalog outlines the resolution process in the academic hearing process. He was concerned that this policy change stepped on academic freedom by not allowing faculty members to grant a grade to a student when academic dishonesty occurs. Lindsey explained that the policy encouraged a faculty member to wait to allow for a student's due process, but a student's grade in these types of situations is still up to the faculty member. Stacy Isenbarger pointed out situations where

a faculty member may realize after the fact that they made a mistake, and Francesca Sammurraca said that in those situations, the grades can still be changed later.

Lindsey also added that they received outside counsel on this situation in the FSH, and this policy change was the result of the guidance received. Stacy Isenbarger summarized that her understanding was that this policy encouraged faculty members to wait to award grades until a resolution was reached within the academic hearing process. She noted that this could also be in part due to the increased prevalence of AI and its usage in situations of academic dishonesty.

Jerry Long clarified that Steve was concerned about using the grade of I, or incomplete, as a placeholder grade while academic hearing process is underway. After Steve agreed, Jerry pointed out that the concern is resolved by having a reversion grade in place. Steve said that it creates a weird dynamic to have a grade be put in place after receiving a verdict from the Academic Hearing Board, such as a student still receiving an F after the Academic Hearing Board has decided the student didn't cheat.

Erin James said she wasn't comfortable with using "I" as a placeholder grade in this situation because she was concerned that doing so would make it easily exploitable. Lindsey agreed, but she also gave the example of a situation where a student couldn't be given a grade for three months because of this situation, which impacted their graduation status, academic status, etc., so using that would help give the student an explanation of what happened. Erin suggested creating a different placeholder for this situation.

Steve said that he had heard faculty members say that one way of getting around the policy is by not reporting a student's academic misconduct and giving them an F in the class instead rather than go through this process (which he did not agree with because it encouraged serial cheating). Dave suggested postponing the proposal until Diane Whitney could attend to provide more clarification or vote on the proposal. The committee decided to postpone the proposal until Diane Whitney could attend.

**Outcome:** Postponed

**UCC Agenda Item Number:** UCC-24-054

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

**Speaker:** Annette Folwell and Katharine "Kate" Kolpan

**Discussion:** This had been reviewed by the committee previously, but there had not been a representative to answer the committee's questions, so it had been postponed. Dave pointed out the committee's largest question was about the footnotes, which have since been removed or re-formatted. Dave asked about ANTH 457 not appearing in the course list, and Sydney Beal and Kate Kolpan explained that it was a new course approved this year starting in Summer 2024.

Jerry Long asked why the Field Methods Requirement was listed as 3-6 when the accompanying footnote says that it only required three. Jerry suggested changing it to three instead to simplify it and removing "Three credits of field methods required" from the first footnote, and Annette and Kate agreed. Because only 12 credits of electives are required for the degree, Jerry also suggested changing the second and third sentences of added language to "A total of 12 credits of ANTH 400, ANTH 403, ANTH 404, ANTH 495, ANTH 498, and ANTH 499 can be counted towards the major. A total of 15 credits of ANTH 409 can be counted toward the major." Kate agreed to the change.

Jerry also pointed out that there were some other phrases that could be removed from the first footnote, such as the explanation of students being able to take the course from the University of Idaho, and suggested rephrasing the language to be “Students may also fulfill their field methods requirements by attending an anthropological or archaeological field school from a fellow institution.” Kate agreed to this edit as well.

**Outcome:** Approved with edits

**UCC Agenda Item Number:** UCC-24-054

**Item(s) Under Consideration:** Edit ANTH 453

**Speaker:** Annette Folwell and Katharine “Kate” Kolpan

**Discussion:** This proposal had previously been sent back for language changes suggested by UCC. Dave noted that one change hadn’t been applied (removing the phrase “among other issues” from the first parenthetical), and Kate said that she thought she had removed it, but had missed doing so, so she would be fine to have that removed. Erin pointed out that the prerequisites included a graduate level prerequisite and asked if that could be enforced, and Lindsey Brown said that graduate level prerequisites can be listed to be informational, but not enforced. Kate explained that they were more concerned with ensuring that undergraduate students have prerequisites for the course.

**Outcome:** Unanimously approved with edit

#### V. New Business

**UCC Agenda Item Number:** UCC-24-077

**Item(s) Under Consideration:** Review the 2024 Proposed Change to FSH 4120

**Speaker:** Karen Humes and Erin James

**Discussion:** Erin explained that this policy change would allow the committee created for the sustainability certificate to become a permanent entity. This would allow them to continue vetting courses that are eligible to be added to the certificate, similarly to how the Gen Ed Committee functions. Steve asked if this was just for the Sustainability Committee, and Erin explained that the policy change would be for the Sustainability Committee, which was approved unanimously by the Committee on Committees, but it could open it up to other groups, such as the Water Resources Program. Erin said she hoped that this change would help create more interdisciplinary opportunities in the future.

Magdy Noguera asked if this committee would cover all interdisciplinary programs in the future, and Erin said this committee would only be for the sustainability certificate. Stacey Doumit suggested having an interdisciplinary unit created at some point so that it’s more of a “neutral zone.”

**Outcome:** Unanimously approved

**UCC Agenda Item Number:** UCC-24-077

**Item(s) Under Consideration:** Review Changes to General Education Course List: Regulation J-3

**Speaker:** N/A

**Discussion:** No discussion needed.

**Outcome:** Unanimously approved

**UCC Agenda Item Number:** UCC-24-077

**Item(s) Under Consideration:** Review Inactive Course List for 2024-2025 Catalog

**Speaker:** Ted Unzicker

**Discussion:** Magdy said that she wasn't sure if the department chairs for her college reached out to the Registrar's Office to get the courses removed from the inactive list since it was their understanding that the UCC representative convey that information. After a brief discussion, she planned to work with the Registrar's Office to ensure that the appropriate courses were removed from the list. Stacey Doumit also added that she wasn't sure if the cooperative food science courses had been removed from the list, so they also planned to communicate after the meeting to make sure the right courses had been removed.

**Outcome:** Unanimously approved pending any required course removals from the College of Business and Economics and/or Food Science

**UCC Agenda Item Number:** UCC-24-077

**Item(s) Under Consideration:** Review Four-Digit Course Numbers (Amended)

**Speaker:** Ted Unzicker

**Discussion:** Stacey Doumit reaffirmed her opposition to the four-digit course number change. Otherwise, no discussion was needed.

**Outcome:** Approved with one opposed

**UCC Agenda Item Number:** UCC-24-078

**Item(s) Under Consideration:** Add Doctorate in Anatomical Sciences

**Speaker:** Jeff Seegmiller

**Discussion:** Lindsey Brown was concerned about approving a curriculum without approved courses. Jeff explained that this was done previously for other programs in the School of Health and Medical Professions, and the programs had to be approved to create the codes for the course curriculums. Lindsey asked if the committee would then review the program again next year when the courses were created, and Jeff agreed.

**Outcome:** Approved unanimously

**UCC Agenda Item Number:** UCC-24-079

**Item(s) Under Consideration:** Edit Forestry (BSFORESTRY), Natural Resources (MNR), and edit REM 411

**Speaker:** Steve Shook

**Discussion:** Lindsey Brown requested that the department send the Registrar's Office a list of what courses were entailed in the "advisor approved electives" so that fewer substitution waivers would be required. Steve said he would relay the message to the department chair.

For the Natural Resources (MNR), Lindsey shared her concern about the line "Optional: Intro Ecol Data Analysis" attached to the NRS 504 course because specific special topics can't be enforced. Steve said he wasn't sure about that, but since it's a graduate level program, students must create a plan of study, so they must register for courses in consultation with that plan. Erin James pointed out that it could mean

that they had plans to create a separate course from the special topics course, and Steve said that he believed that was the plan.

No discussion needed for the REM 411 edit.

**Outcome:** Unanimously approved

**UCC Agenda Item Number:** UCC-24-080

**Item(s) Under Consideration:** Edit AGED 101

**Speaker:** N/A

**Discussion:** Annette Folwell said that when this course was first created, a similar course on oral communication already existed in the Psychology and Communications Department. However, at the time, the communication course was only two credits, while this course in the Agricultural Education, Leadership, and Communications Department was three because it added more content specific to agriculture, food, and natural resources. After departmental communication, they decided on a curriculum for the AGED 101 course that differentiated it from the existing communication course. Now that the Gen Ed communication courses are three credits, this course is no longer what the Communication faculty thought it would be. Annette also noted that Eric Stuen made a comment stating that UCGE approved the content of the course but objected to the removal of the prerequisites.

On this point, Mark Nielsen said that the UCGE had a long discussion on this, and he had explained that the course had been approved to be a general education course when it was specific for CALS and CNR students, but UCGE had had concerns about approving it with the understanding that it would be open to students of any major. Jerry asked how a course could be considered a general education course when it was specific to a particular set of students, and additional committee members shared this question.

Mark Nielsen said there had been a problem previously where departments all had their own statistics course that was specific to their discipline, and this created many turf wars between departments and colleges. He stated that he didn't want to go back to that issue, and those discipline-specific courses could be offered, but they shouldn't be general education courses.

Mark also said that he didn't understand the motivation behind the change, and Erin pointed out that the rationale is minimal and doesn't offer a reason for the change.

Stacey pointed out that offering this course could lessen the strain on the Psychology and Communication Department because it would provide students with another option to complete the Oral Communication requirement. On speaking to the three-credit concern, Stacey said that additional content would have had to COMM 101 to increase the credits from 2 to 3, and since both COMM 101 and AGED 101 had both been approved as Gen Ed courses, the existing material in AGED 101, regardless of the content change in COMM 101, must have been deemed sufficient.

Stacy Isenbarger pointed out that there are only four courses that satisfy the oral communication general education requirement (AGED 101, two COMM courses, and a PHIL course), so this course stood out as an outlier.

Erin said that she felt deeply uncomfortable with this proposal because the UCGE created a confusing situation in which there were ramifications beyond UCC, and Dave agreed.

**Outcome:** Approved with 1 opposed and 4 abstentions

**UCC Agenda Item Number:** UCC-24-080

**Item(s) Under Consideration:** Edit EPPN 154

**Speaker:** N/A

**Discussion:** No discussion needed.

**Outcome:** Approved unanimously

**UCC Agenda Item Number:** UCC-24-080

**Item(s) Under Consideration:** Edit Child Feeding Undergraduate Academic Certificate

**Speaker:** N/A

**Discussion:** No discussion needed.

**Outcome:** Approved unanimously

**UCC Agenda Item Number:** UCC-24-081

**Item(s) Under Consideration:** Add CORS 246

**Speaker:** Karen Humes

**Discussion:** After reviewing the material, Steve explained that he understood the “co-creating” phrase in the title, but he was concerned that students may not understand. He suggested changing the title to “Climate Futures: Catalyzing Change” instead. Karen agreed with the change.

**Outcome:** Approved unanimously with edit

**UCC Agenda Item Number:** UCC-24-082

**Item(s) Under Consideration:** Add EDCI 497

**Speaker:** Scott Clyde

**Discussion:** Jerry asked about the reason for having “applied” at the end of the course title. Scott explained that he had been advised to phrase it like that to make it fit on the form. He said that his preference was “decolonizing” instead. After a brief discussion, it was decided that the short title would instead be “Decolonizing Methods” and the long title would be “Decolonizing Methodology Applied.”

**Outcome:** Approved unanimously with title edit

**UCC Agenda Item Number:** UCC-24-082

**Item(s) Under Consideration:** Edit MATH 143, STAT 251, and PHYS 100

**Speaker:** Mark Nielsen, Erkan Buzbus

**Discussion:** No discussion needed.

**Outcome:** Approved unanimously

VI. Chair Dave Paul closed the meeting at 5:01 pm.

Sydney Beal  
UCC Secretary