

University Curriculum Committee Meeting

Meeting #2, September 23, 2024

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

Erin James, Chair*

Barb Kirchmeier

Francesca Sammarruca

Dave Paul*

Stacy Isenbarger*

Stacey Doumit*

Young Park*

Dan Cordon*

Steve Shook*

Erkan Buzbas*

Norman Lee*

Mark Adams*

Derrick Phillips*

Dwaine Hubbard

Paul Tietz*

Anya Zuercher*

Gwen Gorzelsky

Guests present: Ted Unzicker, Rebecca Frost, Annette Folwell, Charles Tibbals, Lindsey Brown, Markie McBrayer, Chen Wang, Florian Justwan, Robin Johnson, Jeff Seegmiller, Whitney Vincent, and Tanya Miura

- I. Chair Erin James called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.
- II. September 16, 2024 minutes were approved.
- III. Announcements and Communications
 - a. Ted Unzicker announced the new SoftDocs form for course fees and urged the committee to inform their colleagues about it, referring questions regarding this change or the new process to Jennifer Radil.
 - b. The committee also discussed the Buchanan award, which is given to students who graduate with a 4.0 GPA. Lindsey Brown asked for the committee's thoughts as to whether this award should be extended to associate degree students, with some members suggesting that it should be kept for bachelor students only, particularly since that was likely the intent when it was established in 1927. After some discussion, the committee agreed that a separate award should be established for associate degree students that graduate with a 4.0 GPA. With that knowledge, Lindsey and the Registrar's Office team planned to come up with some language changes to accommodate that and present it to the committee at a later meeting before finalizing it.
 - c. The Vandal Gateway Program was approved as a three-year pilot starting in Fall 2022, with a review expected in Spring 2025 for renewal. The committee wanted data on retention rates and cost analysis from the full pilot period before discussing renewal.

Defining other metrics for success beyond revenue was discussed, and Erin planned to review the 2022 pilot program documentation to review what metrics were used previously. Erin also planned to draft a memo requesting specific data and circulate the memo draft within UCC before sending it to the VGP committee with an invitation to attend a meeting in Spring 2025.

- d. The committee discussed the issues with using the class search tool as a replacement of the class schedule, which is scheduled for retirement. Steve proposed maintaining the class schedule as it provides more straightforward navigation compared to the search tool, thus helping university employees maintain efficient processes. Lindsey explained that the current class schedule is an old homegrown system that will eventually break, thus instigating the need for removal. She discussed the search tool's functionality, including updates every minute compared to the old schedule's updates every hour and new features like searching by college or campus. Some committee members discussed how this change might affect staff morale and productivity, particularly for academic advisors. After a brief discussion, the committee voted unanimously to send on to Faculty Senate the resolution Steve prepared containing UCC's recommendation to keep the class schedule.

IV. New Business

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-25-007 and UCC-25-008

Item(s) Under Consideration: Add DAS and GERO subject prefixes and MEDS 5540 course

Speaker: Jeff Seegmiller

Discussion: The first subject prefix was for the new Doctor of Anatomical Sciences, and the second for the new Master of Science in Gerontology, with both programs being approved by UCC in Spring 2024.

The committee also discussed a new one-credit class from WWAMI (MEDS 5540), with some concerns raised about the course duration and the potential for students to miss the intensive week-long course. Jeff Seegmiller clarified that the course was designed to accommodate students who miss it, with makeup materials available. Steve Shook also noted that the title may cause confusion. He also explained that due to the collaborative nature of WWAMI, the information in the course proposal (including the duration of the course and the title) is the same information used at six other universities, making course changes rather difficult. Due to this and the options for accommodation when needed, the committee decided to approve the course.

Outcome: Approved unanimously

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-25-009

Item(s) Under Consideration: Edit MATH 1143, 1144, 1170, and 4320

Speaker: Erkan Buzbus

Discussion: The first three math courses were revised for language and course description changes following the name change of the Polya Math Center to Mathematics Assistance Center (MAC), with no substantial changes to the courses themselves. The fourth math course (MATH 4320) requested adding a joint-listed course to accommodate the needs of the industry in the mathematics graduate programs.

Outcome: Approved unanimously

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-25-009

Item(s) Under Consideration: Edit BIOL 4500

Speaker: Tanya Miura

Discussion: The biology course, BIOL 4500, was requesting a course number change from a 3000 to a 4000 level to reflect its rigor and teaching style. This change would also allow graduate students to participate in the course. Steve asked if this would impact students who have previously taken the course, and Lindsey said that it shouldn't because they're both upper-division numbers, with the only exception being if there is a line in a program's curriculum that distinguishes between 3000 and 4000 level course requirements (such as a line stating that a certain number of 4000 level elective courses are required).

Outcome: Approved unanimously

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-25-009

Item(s) Under Consideration: Add BIOL 4660 and CHEM 4200

Speaker: Tanya Miura

Discussion: The BIOL 4660 course has been previously taught as a special topics course, and they would now like to give it a permanent course number. Erin noted that BIOL 4660's rationale stated that it was accepted to the Sustainability certificate curriculum, but because it was a special topics course at the time, it may not have been formally approved, which may require a resubmission to get it added. Erin planned to reach out and clarify with the individuals needed for this process outside of the meeting.

The chemistry course, CHEM 4200, was a new course filling a gap in the curriculum. Lindsey pointed out that both "Spring" and "Spring (Odd Years)" were selected in the Typically Offered section, and the Registrar's Office planned to reach out to clarify which option was correct pending the course approval.

Outcome: Approved unanimously

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-25-009

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

Speaker: Erin James

Discussion: The first proposal involved adding physics as an option in addition to physical chemistry to the Biochemistry B.S.BIO.CHEM. program. The second proposal requested adding anthropology, statistics, and biology classes as options to the Medical Sciences B.S., and the third proposal requested adding the priorly approved biodiversity course (BIOL 4660) to the Biology B.A./B.S.

Outcome: Approved unanimously

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-25-010

Item(s) Under Consideration: Edit POLS 2090, 2350, 4370, 4670, and 4740

Speaker: Florian Justwan

Discussion: These course proposals largely requested updates to course descriptions, with a small change in the prerequisites of the third class to make it more inclusive and a small change in the title to the fourth class.

Outcome: Approved unanimously

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-25-010

Item(s) Under Consideration: Edit JAMM 3610, 3670, 4500, 4660, and IS 4400

Speaker: Robin Johnson

Discussion: These course proposals largely focused on updates to course descriptions, with some prerequisite updates for JAMM 3610, 3670, and 4660 and an addition of subtitles to JAMM 4500. Dave

Paul pointed out the change in the title for JAMM 3670, and Robin explained that they made a small change by removing “Analytics” from the title to better distinguish this course from a newly proposed course (JAMM 3420: Media Research and Analytics).

The IS 4400 proposal included an update to the course description.

Outcome: Approved unanimously

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-25-010

Item(s) Under Consideration: Edit ENGL 3200, 4190, 5020, 5030, 5050, and 5930

Speaker: Erin James

Discussion: These proposals included minor changes to the course titles and course descriptions. Erin requested that the credits of 5030, 5050, and 5930 be changed from 99 to “credit arranged.” The Registrar’s Office explained that a numerical value is required for that field, so it could be lowered, but “credit arranged” could not be used due to a software technicality, which Erkan Buzbus explained was a common programming issue that likely couldn’t be changed. The committee considered two options: leaving the courses at the standard 99 maximum credits to accommodate the programming issue or changing the maximum credits available from 99 to 16. After a brief discussion, the committee decided to move forward with the latter option.

Outcome: Approved unanimously with edit to credit maximum to 16 credits for ENGL 5020, 5030, and 5930

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-25-010

Item(s) Under Consideration: Add POLS 4420, 4810, and 4860

Speaker: Florian Justwan

Discussion: Steve Shook asked why POLS 2050 or 2370 are recommended preparation rather than used as formal prerequisites for POLS 4860. Florian explained that those two courses are introductory courses that expose students to politics in the world; however, some students have previous experience that makes them eligible to take POLS 4860 without needing the formal classwork in 2050 or 2370.

Outcome: Approved unanimously

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-25-010

Item(s) Under Consideration: Add JAMM 3420, 3720, and 4600 and reactivate JAM 3750

Speaker: Robin Johnson

Discussion: These courses are being proposed or reactivated due to staffing changes and changes in industry demand. Lindsey Brown expressed concern about JAM 3420 being a duplicate of another research methods course, and Robin explained that there are industry-specific demands that will be unique to this particular course.

Outcome: Approved unanimously

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-25-010

Item(s) Under Consideration: Inactivate ENGL 401 and HIST 3290

Speaker: Erin James

Discussion: ENGL 401 is being proposed for inactivation due to staffing shortages, and HIST 3290 was moved to a 4000-level course and this 3000-level version of the course remained in error, so the proposal is clean-up for that error.

Outcome: Approved unanimously

Chair Erin James closed the meeting at 4:40 pm.

Sydney Beal-Coles
UCC Secretary