

University Curriculum Committee Meeting

Meeting #7, October 28, 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*

Lindsey Brown

Paul Tietz*

Anya Zuercher*

Gwen Gorzelsky

Guests present: Ted Unzicker, Rebecca Frost, Charles Goebel, Eric Wolbrecht, Gabriel Potirniche, Ken Udas, Russell Qualls, Frank Wilhelm, Trevor White, Indrajit Charit, Raffaella Sini

- I. Chair Erin James called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.
- II. October 21, 2024 minutes were approved.
- III. Announcements and Communications
 - a. Erin reminded the committee of the Vandal Gateway Program Google folder and requested committee members review the information and add their insights before next week's UCC meeting on November 4, 2024.
- IV. New Business

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-25-034

Item(s) Under Consideration: Edit CAA subject prefix

Speaker: Stacy Isenbarger

Discussion: The CAA suffix, which is currently housed in the Department of Architecture, was proposed to be moved to the college level to denote interdisciplinary coursework.

Outcome: Approved unanimously

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-25-034

Item(s) Under Consideration: Edit Landscape Architecture Minor

Speaker: Stacy Isenbarger and Raffaella Sini

Discussion: This proposal had been previously seen by the committee, and the requested edits had been made regarding the proposed changes and clarifying the proposal's intent. Lindsey Brown asked why

some of the courses were listed as joint-listed courses when they weren't joint listed, adding that due to the fact that a minor can only be obtained by undergraduate students, it may be best to remove the graduate level option. Raffaella explained that some students in their upper-division coursework prefer taking graduate level courses instead, and this addition of options provides that level of flexibility for them. It was decided that the coursework should instead be listed as "or" courses, not joint-listed courses.

Outcome: Approved unanimously with edit

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-25-034

Item(s) Under Consideration: Add CAA 3800, CAA 4800, LARC 2550, and LARC 3420

Speaker: Stacy Isenbarger and Raffaella Sini

Discussion: These courses are part of the forthcoming Historic Preservation certificate, which has been requested by the Preservation Society of the State to meet an industry need. Dave Paul suggested changing "might" to "will" in the CAA 4800 assessment methods section, and Erin pointed out some words that didn't need to be capitalized in the course description, which included "certified local government" and "historic tax credits", which Stacy and Raffaella agreed should be made lowercase. Erin also pointed out semicolon issues in LARC 2550, and Stacy agreed to work with the Registrar's Office to edit the LARC 2550 description. Lindsey Brown also suggested spelling out "SOI" in the CAA 3800 course to better inform students of the content, and Raffaella agreed.

Outcome: Approved unanimously with edits

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-25-035

Item(s) Under Consideration: Edit Crop Science and Management BSPLSC

Speaker: Joseph Kuhl and Stacey Doumit

Discussion: This proposal included dropping courses that were no longer taught, adding course options, and creating two emphasis areas. Joseph explained that crop science and crop management had previously been two separate degrees, but they had combined them to reduce the number of majors. This proposal was being brought forward as a way of organizing the curriculum.

On behalf of his college, Erkan Buzbus asked why BIOL 250 and 255 were being dropped as options in the curriculum, particularly when it makes it easier in the situations where students switch majors. Joseph and Stacey said that was likely unintentional and agreed to add it back in as an additional sequence option to EPPN 1540 and 1550.

Outcome: Approved unanimously with edit

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-25-036

Item(s) Under Consideration: Edit Biological Engineering BSBE

Speaker: Gabriel Potirniche

Discussion: Lindsey expressed concerns about the total number of credits, noting that the minimum was 134 and could go up to 141. Barb raised concerns about the absence of English 101 in the 4-year plan. Lindsey explained that most of the engineering programs begin at the ENGL 102 and MATH 170 level, and the options of starting at the ENGL 101 or MATH 143 level are included in the five-year plan. Barb expressed that it felt disingenuous to give students four-year plans that didn't include Gen Ed coursework that most students must take.

Lindsey discussed the issue of students graduating with a high number of credits, citing graduating students from Spring 2024 that had anywhere from 139 to 209 credits. Gabriel explained that coursework credits above 160-170 were generally due to transfer credits. In response to committee

members stating the pressure to conform to the 120-credit state standard, Gabriel suggested that the engineering departments should have more of a say in the number of credits their programs require to meet the needs of their students and the needs for accreditation standards rather than being reduced to 120 credits.

Eric Wolbrecht explained that it was not uncommon in similar programs across the country to start their students in higher level math courses (like U of I's four-year plan) or be a part of their pre-engineering program (like U of I's five-year plan). The committee discussed the need for clearer language in the degree requirements, particularly regarding the inclusion of English 101 and Math 143 in the five-year plan, to ensure this expectation is more clearly expressed in the catalog. Barb suggested revisiting the language around "deficiency" and proposed a more positive rephrasing. Lindsey agreed to work with the engineering faculty and Barb to improve the language in the degree requirements.

Outcome: Approved unanimously

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-25-036

Item(s) Under Consideration: Edit Mechanical Engineering BSME

Speaker: Gabriel Potirniche and Eric Wolbrecht

Discussion: This proposal primarily included a reorganization of the technical electives. Lindsey pointed out an extraneous note of 6-18 credits that could be removed, and Eric agreed to the change.

Outcome: Approved unanimously with edit

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-25-036

Item(s) Under Consideration: Edit Engineering Technology BSTECH, inactivate INDT 4150, and edit INDT 3100

Speaker: Gabriel Potirniche and Indrajit Charit

Discussion: The program edits included changing the name and removing the proposed inactivated course. The proposal edit to INDT 3100 included a course title change to match the program name change. Indrajit explained that after some surveys were conducted, they found that the title "Engineering Technology" rather than "Industrial Technology" would be more relevant.

Erin expressed concern about the loss of this course titled "Impact of Technology on Society", explaining that it seemed like a prevalent issue in society, contrary to the inactivation rationale. Indrajit explained that it was not relevant to the engineering technology curriculum, as similar material is discussed in other courses, so the inactivation is more to remove a redundancy in their curriculum. The committee agreed to change the inactivation description for the historical record to more clearly reflect this.

Indrajit also discussed a potential change in the CIP code due to the name change, which would require further discussion with the Provost's Office. Without Gwen being in attendance, it was decided that he reach out to Gwen or the Provost's Office directly, and the program could be approved pending a possible CIP code change.

Rebecca Frost explained that the engineering technology program was at 116 credits due to the exclusion of ENGL 101 and MATH 143 as part of the college-wide engineering policy. To meet the 120-credit requirement, she had to add a four-credit elective in addition to students taking ENGL 101 and MATH 143, and she suggested revising the curriculum to allow ENGL 101 and MATH 143 to be taken for credit so students didn't need to take additional coursework. The College of Engineering representatives

planned to discuss the issue further with Rebecca, and the committee agreed to approve the proposal pending any changes decided regarding this credit issue.

Outcome: Approved unanimously with edit

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-25-036

Item(s) Under Consideration: Add ENGR 1060

Speaker: Gabriel Potirniche

Discussion: This proposal was previously reviewed by the committee, and their question regarding funding was answered by the revised rationale. Lindsey suggested removing the final sentence of the course description regarding the team presentation to ensure faculty flexibility in the future, and Gabriel agreed to the change.

Outcome: Approved unanimously with edit

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-25-037

Item(s) Under Consideration: Edit GEOL 4100

Speaker: Erin James

Discussion: Erin suggested changing the final sentence to the standard line used for joint-listed courses (“Additional work will be required for graduate credit.”) to provide more flexibility in the future. With no one to represent the course, it was decided that the Registrar’s Office would reach out to clarify the final line, but the committee felt comfortable approving the proposal regardless of whether the line was changed or not.

Outcome: Approved unanimously

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-25-038

Item(s) Under Consideration: Edit Fisheries Science BS and Rangeland Ecology and Management BS and edit ENVS 4200

Speaker: Charles Goebel

Discussion: These proposals included narrative edits and minor course additions.

Outcome: Approved unanimously

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-25-039

Item(s) Under Consideration: Edit FSH 4130

Speaker: Ted Unzicker and Lindsey Brown

Discussion: Ted discussed the need to update standard course numbers to four digits and reserve future standard course numbers. He also proposed the introduction of a standard course number for undergraduate research, as it has become an increasingly in-demand course for departments. Steve asked if existing undergraduate research courses should be moved to the new standard course number, and Lindsey explained that doing so was preferred.

Erin noted that an Undergraduate Research certificate was forthcoming and asked if that certificate would be problematic with this new standard course number, and Lindsey said she couldn’t see that being an issue.

Stacy suggested reaching out to the undergraduate research team to initiate the transition to ensure it goes smoothly. Lindsey said she could propose the idea, but did not want to speak on his behalf without him being present. A question was raised about the preference for the last digit of new four-digit course numbers, and it was clarified that the final digit doesn't hold any specific meaning.

Francesca Sammarruca noted that in C-1, the final two sentences use different references to doctorate level courses (“Ph.D. or Ed.D.” vs “doctorate-level”) and asked if there was a reason for this difference. To remove any potential confusion, Erin suggested revising the second-to-last sentence to read as “Course 6000 must be offered in, and only in, those subject fields in which the doctorate-level programs are offered.”

Outcome: Approved unanimously with edit

Chair Erin James closed the meeting at 4:32 pm.

Sydney Beal-Coles
UCC Secretary