

University Curriculum Committee Meeting

Meeting #9, November 4, 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: Rebecca Frost, Kris Waynant, Bob Borrelli, Aaron Oforlea, Eric Wolbrecht, Eric Mittelstaedt, Indrajit Charit, Gabriel Potirniche, Annette Folwell, Janis Johnson, Rachel Halverson, Brenda Schroeder, and Joules BC Beeston

- I. Chair Erin James called the meeting to order at 3:31 pm.
- II. October 28, 2024 minutes were approved.
- III. Announcements and Communications
 - a. Erin led a discussion on the requested VGP information contained in the Google folder that was previously sent out to the committee. The committee debated whether they should define the metrics of student success or ask VGP to define them. Stacy Isenbarger and Mark Adams suggested that VGP might already have a system of measurement in place, and it may be better to understand their metrics rather than dictate new metric expectations. Dan Cordon also voiced a desire to see the costs related to the VGP program. After taking notes on the committee's thoughts, Erin agreed to co-write a memo with Kristin Haltinner (the Faculty Senate Chair) to the VGP directors requesting information for UCC and Faculty Senate, aiming for a written response rather than, or in conjunction with, a presentation. The team also discussed the timeline, and Erin suggested working with the VGP directors to coordinate a meeting sometime in the spring semester.
- IV. New Business

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-25-041

Item(s) Under Consideration: Reactivate NE 5550

Speaker: Indrajit Charit

Discussion: This proposal requested the reactivation of the nuclear criticality safety course, which was dropped from the catalog due to not being offered for some time, so it could be included in the requirements for one of the nuclear engineering certificates. Erin suggested adding a missing “and” to the course description, and Indrajit agreed to the change. Barb asked if there was a nuclear criticality safety 1 class, and Indrajit said that there was, but it was under a different name (Nuclear Criticality Safety). After a brief discussion with the committee, it was decided that Indrajit would return to the department with the committee’s suggestion of a name change from the associated Nuclear Criticality Safety course to Nuclear Criticality Safety I to better align the connection between the courses. Sydney Beal-Coles and Lindsey Brown agreed that the Registrar’s Office could likely still process that change for the upcoming catalog year (2025-2026), provided the department submits the proposal in a timely manner.

Outcome: Approved unanimously with edit

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-25-041

Item(s) Under Consideration: Edit Nuclear Decommissioning and Used Fuel Management Graduate Academic Certificate, Nuclear Technology Management Graduate Academic Certificate, and Computer Science (PHD)

Speaker: Joules BC Beeston and Gabriel Potirniche

Discussion: The committee discussed edits to several certificates. These changes included swapping one course for another in the Nuclear Decommissioning and Used Fuel Management Graduate Academic Certificate, adding “M.Eng.” to avoid confusion in the description and requirements, and allowing flexibility for one graduate research credit seminar and removing the teaching requirement in the Computer Science Ph.D. Lindsey pointed out language in the Computer Science Ph.D. regarding UI Residence Centers and requested clarifying that sentence to better inform students of the program’s expectations. After a brief discussion of various editorial options, it was decided that Joules would work on revising the language with Lindsey outside of the meeting.

Outcome: Approved unanimously with edit

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-25-041

Item(s) Under Consideration: Add Robotics Engineering Undergraduate Academic Certificate

Speaker: Eric Wolbrecht

Discussion: Erin began the discussion by asking Gwen Gorzelsky for an update on the State Board of Education planning policy regarding the certificates not included on the three-year plan. Gwen explained that she reached out about the concerns shared at previous UCC meetings and was waiting to hear back from them regarding the best way to proceed. However, UCC could still approve the new certificates, and the Provost’s Office would then hold onto the proposals until they hear back from SBOE on how to proceed. Given this, the committee agreed to consider the new certificates, regardless of whether they are on the three-year plan or not. Lindsey Brown voiced a concern about the potential delay in the approval process if a certificate is not on the three-year plan, and Gwen acknowledged the need to maintain existing deadlines for curricular changes.

The committee also discussed the feedback on assessment plans, with a concern raised about the potential infringement on faculty intellectual property. It was clarified that the assessment team’s suggestions were meant to improve the language for better measurability, not to dictate the curriculum.

The committee also discussed the need for better guidelines and examples for assessment methods in the future, which Gwen explained was currently in the works.

Outcome: Approved unanimously

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-25-040

Item(s) Under Consideration: Edit Film and Television (BA or BS) and English Literature Minor

Speaker: Erin James

Discussion: The Film and Television BA or BS proposal requested adding two new courses, and the English Literature minor proposed a name change to better reflect its focus.

Outcome: Approved unanimously

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-25-040

Item(s) Under Consideration: Add German for the Professions Undergraduate Academic Certificate and Chinese for the Professions Undergraduate Academic Certificate

Speaker: Rachel Halverson

Discussion: Rachel discussed the trend of professional language study programs rather than literature-based language programs as well as the current lack of U of I major programs available to students in various languages. These certificates would fill that gap and would address current industry needs.

Outcome: Approved unanimously

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-25-040

Item(s) Under Consideration: Add BLST 2010 and inactivate IS 426

Speaker: Jan Johnson and Aaron Oforlea

Discussion: Lindsey Brown asked if BLST 2010 was equivalent to the retired AFST 101, and Janis said they were.

Outcome: Approved unanimously

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-25-042

Item(s) Under Consideration: Edit Wildlife Sciences BS and add NRS 5700

Speaker: Steve Shook

Discussion: This included a program clean-up and update to the Wildlife Sciences BS. Erkan Buzbus noted an incorrect course number in the description of change section, and the Registrar's Office planned to correct it to ensure accuracy of the historical record.

Outcome: Approved unanimously with edit

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-25-043

Item(s) Under Consideration: Edit Global Disease Ecology (BS) and Water Science and Management (BSSWS)

Speaker: Stacey Doumit and Brenda Schroeder

Discussion: Lindsey Brown pointed out some of the notes in the Water Science and Management bachelor's degree map and said they could create some confusion for students and advisors. Rebecca planned to work with the proposal author outside of the meeting to clarify the language.

Outcome: Approved unanimously with future discussion and possible edits to take place regarding the Water Science and Management BSSWS degree maps

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-25-044

Item(s) Under Consideration: Edit Kinesiology MS

Speaker: Dave Paul

Discussion: Steve initiated a discussion about the renaming of the Kinesiology and Leisure Sciences program to Kinesiology, as the department just changed the program name from Movement Sciences and Leisure Sciences to Kinesiology and Leisure Sciences last year. This prompted the question of whether the program was still similar enough to be considered the same program, particularly when accompanied by a CIP code change the program underwent last year. Dave Paul explained that the program was still the same, but they were working to distance themselves from the outdoor recreation emphasis, which played a role in the CIP code change. Stacey Doumit also explained that in her college, CIP considerations play a role in what changes their programs undergo because changes to CIP codes could result in a lowered availability of funds for graduate students, which would impact their enrollment numbers. Dave also explained that a new doctorate program in Kinesiology was in the works, and they'd like to keep consistency between the two programs.

Outcome: Approved with one abstention

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-25-045

Item(s) Under Consideration: Edit Virtual Technology and Design (BS)

Speaker: Stacy Isenbarger

Discussion: The Virtual Technology and Design program proposal curriculum changes were requested for accreditation purposes and as a way to reduce commonly submitted sub waivers. However, there were concerns about the program's learning objectives, which were deemed too promotional. After a brief discussion, it was decided that the committee would vote on the proposal with the recommendation that the proposal author work with the Assessment team to revise the learning outcomes.

Outcome: Approved unanimously

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-25-046

Item(s) Under Consideration: Edit Statistical Science (MS)

Speaker: Erkan Buzbus

Discussion: Erkan explained that the program has a rigid structure, and they would like to relax the structure to provide more flexibility for faculty members and students. Lindsey Brown requested that a link be added to the catalog description to the graduate student handbook to accommodate VA requirements, and Erkan agreed to the change.

Outcome: Approved unanimously with edit

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-25-046

Item(s) Under Consideration: Add ESS 5060

Speaker: Eric Mittelstaedt

Discussion: Erin asked if a smaller repeatability cap may be more in line with the course's goals, and Eric initially agreed to lower it to 6 per the committee's suggestion. However, after a brief discussion on the nature of the course and the learning outcomes, the committee instead recommended making the course non-repeatable and by extension removing the final line of the course description regarding the course's repeatability, with Eric's approval of the change.

Outcome: Approved unanimously with edit

UCC Agenda Item Number: UCC-25-047

Item(s) Under Consideration: Add Undergraduate Research Academic Certificate

Speaker: Kris Waynant

Discussion: Kris explained that this certificate was being proposed due to a number of requests from students and faculty members at various colleges. He expressed concerns about its incomplete nature

due to lack of participation from certain departments and colleges, but he explained that those who are participating are enthusiastic about the certification.

Steve expressing concerns about the administration, workload, and potential hiring of additional directors. Kris explained that he, as the director of the Office of Undergraduate Research, would be maintaining the administrative aspects. There was a brief discussion on various aspects of the administration and how it would be run, with Erin providing input on how the sustainability certificate is organized as an example and input from Kris on their current plan.

Stacy Isenbarger expressed concern about the inclusion of senior experience courses as core courses rather than being listed in the application section. Kris explained that the location of the courses (which section they were listed in) was decided by the departments.

Paul Tietz commented that he wondered how much this would impact a student's choice of college and asked if other universities had similar programs. Kris explained that there were and cited those examples. He further explained that when he has held undergraduate research information sessions, the main attendees are freshmen and sophomores who want research opportunities, but those options aren't currently available to them.

Outcome: Approved unanimously

Chair Erin James closed the meeting at 5:02 pm.

Sydney Beal-Coles
UCC Secretary