

Minutes

CALS Curriculum Committee Meeting
Tuesday, February 8, 2022, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.
6201 MSB

Voting members present: Goldman, Kaspar, Lankau, Ney, Van Pijkeren, Vermillion Kalmon, Wagner
Student Members: Antonson, Weisner
Ex Officio: Ackerman-Yost
Minutes Taken by: Arnfelt

Chair for this meeting: JP van Pijkeren

INFORMATIONAL AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 1. Comment for CALS APC – New Undergraduate Certificate**
Certificate in Science Communication
Effective Fall 2022
<https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=1287>
1:00-1:20pm
Guests: Mike Xenos,
Tera Wagner

Discussion: The department is proposing this certificate due to student demand. Many students wish to further their interest in science communication after taking LSC 251, but either cannot double major in LSC for technical reasons or don't wish to commit to the whole major. The department received feedback from current students, alumni, and employers on the importance of communication skills. They have discussed the certificate and received buy-in from other related departments on campus.

There was a question from the committee if science literacy background is needed to be successful in the certificate. The department indicated that students are coming from different backgrounds of science, and every UW-Madison student needs to have biological science breadth as part of their degree. There is one course that is required as a foundation course and all LSC students take the course as well. The committee was concerned about potential bottleneck issues with enrollment. However, the department indicated that this course has capacity, and there are plans for TAs or resources if needed. There was a concern if students would want to switch from the major to the certificate. The department said they don't see this being an issue but will monitor it closely.

The committee is supportive of the proposed certificate. The curriculum was well-thought-out and allowed students to "dip their toes" into the field of science communication.

The committee felt that the proposed certificate would allow students in credit-intensive majors, such as the Nutritional Sciences BSDN, gain skills and knowledge in science communication. The committee concurred with the program regarding areas that require close attention: course capacity, particularly if the certificate is more popular in the beginning than expected, and the impact of the certificate on enrollment in the major.

The committee noted that it would be good to have rewards from campus to successful certificate programs.

CONSENT AGENDA

2. Review meeting minutes from January 25, 2022

3. **Course change** – updating requisites to allow GH majors; aligning description and CLOs with campus requirements

NUTR SCI/INTER-AG 421 – Global Health Field Experience

Effective Fall 2022

<https://next-guide.wisc.edu/courseadmin/?key=88262>

4. **Course deactivation**

FOOD SCI 438 – Food Service Operations Lab

Effective Fall 2022

<https://next-guide.wisc.edu/courseadmin/?key=4310>

Item 2-4 approved by consent.

ACTION ITEMS

5. CALS International Studies requirement – new application

LSC 625 – Risk Communication

Materials in Box

1:20-1:40pm

Goldman/Everyone

Motion to defer (Goldman, van Pijkeren)

Discussion: The committee felt that the learning outcomes strongly represented most of the requirements. However, the committee did not have sufficient information to evaluate the amount of non-US content in the course, and whether that content was comparative.

Vote: 6-0-1

6. **Course change** – increase credits from 2 to 3, add crosslisting, change title and description, add graduate attribute

GENETICS/BIOCHEM 631 - Plant Genetics and Development

Effective Fall 2022

<https://next-guide.wisc.edu/courseadmin/?key=4688>

1:40-1:50pm

Lankau/Ney

Motion to approve (Lankau, Ney)

Discussion: The committee supports merging the two existing courses into one course to allow for more frequent offerings. Some of the learning outcomes appeared to be difficult to assess. The committee recommended that the proposer consider unpacking the single graduate learning outcome and clarifying any extra time commitment required for graduate students. The increase in credits was a concern, as the out of class time is based around 7 class assignments, so it needs to be clear those are substantial. The grading scale is generous because the A goes down to 80%.

Academic Affairs will follow up on concerns to make revisions from the committee.

Vote: 6-0-1

7. New course

GENETICS 588 – Immunogenetics

Effective Fall 2022

<https://next-guide.wisc.edu/courseadmin/?key=89382>

1:50-2:00pm

Kaspar/van Pijkeren

Motion to approve (Kaspar, van Pijkeren)

Discussion: The committee supports the new course but has concerns on the learning outcomes. There were three learning outcomes that were unclear – one was not reflected clearly in the assessments, and two others did not appear to be reflective of skills/knowledge learned in the course. If there is overlap with courses around campus (MM&I), the instructor should reach out to other departments about this new course.

Amend the current motion. Motion to approve with revisions from Academic Affairs (van Pijkeren, Kaspar)

Vote: 6-0-1

8. Program changes - updating some core requirements

Forest Science BS

Effective Fall 2022

<https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=43>

2:00-2:20pm

Goldman/Wagner

Motion to approve (Goldman, Wagner)

Discussion: The proposal indicates that at least some of these changes are due to the programmatic accreditation. The program proposes to remove the course F&W ECOL 415 and add a forest management course. The committee was not clear if this removal and addition were related. Further, one of the program's learning outcomes includes tree physiology, and it was not clear how this outcome was being met without F&W ECOL 415. Another change is to provide professional development through F&W ECOL 390 instead of requiring a for-credit internship. There was a note to remove the footnote #4 from the 4-year plan. The committee would like to see a rationale of the program changes of the Forest Science program and how these changes are responding to the accreditor. The committee also requested more details on the forest management course, how the program is currently meeting the program learning outcomes, and what role F&W ECOL 309 has in the curriculum, as it is not being offered.

Amend the motion. Motion to defer (Goldman, Kaspar)

Vote: 7-0-0

INFORMATIONAL AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

9. Reminder – CALS Teaching and Advising Awards due February 11th

- [Arthur J. and Ellen A. Maurer Extra Mile Award](#) (note: candidates for this award must be nominated by a student)
- [Robert R. Spitzer Teaching Excellence Award](#)
- [WALSAA Outstanding Advisor Award](#)

Discussion: A reminder that Feb 22 will receive the award packages to review and March 8 meeting will discuss and make a recommendation to the dean for candidates.