

Minutes

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

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

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Review meeting minutes from February 22, 2022
2. Course discontinuation
DY SCI 272: Pre-Capstone Seminar
Effective Fall 2022
<https://next-guide.wisc.edu/courseadmin/?key=2761>
3. Program change – outlining expected preparatory coursework; adjusting concentration requirements from 3 credits from two categories to two courses from two categories
Entomology, M.S.
Effective Fall 2022
<https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=637>
4. Program change – removing seminar requirements
Forestry, M.S.
Effective Fall 2022
<https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=641>
5. Program change – provide examples of coursework for themed requirements; restructure requirements to a single list for both thesis and non-thesis paths
Life Sciences Communication, M.S.
Effective Fall 2022
<https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=637>

Items 1-5 approved by consent.

ACTION ITEMS

6. **Program changes** - updating some core requirements
Forest Science BS

Effective Fall 2022
<https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=43>

1:00-1:20pm
Guests: Eric Kruger;
Allee Hochmuth
Goldman/Wagner

Discussion with Guests: There are several changes to core requirement courses to be taken out or adjusted. The program created a group instruction course, F&W ECOL 390, to replace the requirement for a for-credit internship course. Students will be required to take the introductory Forests of the World course (F&W ECOL 100). Additionally, F&W ECOL 415 must be removed from the curriculum because the faculty member teaching that course has retired. The program indicated that other courses in the curriculum will be sufficient to fill 415's role in the curriculum. The program is adding F&W ECOL 305 to the curriculum, not as a replacement for F&W ECOL 415, but as a response to student feedback. The committee wondered if there would be an issue with bottlenecks for this course since it has a low enrollment cap. The program indicated that they do not foresee an issue with a predicted 10-12 student class size. In response to questions from the committee, the program also indicated that these changes were consistent with its accreditation.

The proposed curriculum includes courses that are no longer being taught. New courses are in process to replace those courses but have not yet been approved. One is currently being taught as a Topics course. The committee can expect to see a proposal next year with more significant changes.

Motion to approve (Goldman, Wagner)

Discussion: The committee recognized that there was a lot of movement occurring in the program.

Vote: 7-0-0

7. WALSAA Outstanding Advisor Award – discussion and recommendation 1:20-1:35pm
8. Arthur J and Ellen A. Maurer Extra Mile Award - discussion and recommendation 1:35-1:50pm

9. Re-review: New course 1:50-2:00pm
AN SCI 865 – Design and Analysis of Biological Studies van Pijkeren/Lankau
Effective Fall 2022
<https://next-guide.wisc.edu/courseadmin/?key=89380>

Motion to approve (van Pijkeren, Lankau)

Discussion: The revised proposal contains more information about related courses. The committee still had some reservations regarding the work required for this four-credit course, as the syllabus did not clearly reflect 135 hours of outside work. It did not seem that there were 12 hours per week of outside work based on the numbers provided in the syllabus. The committee noted that the statistics department had commented on the proposal, indicating that there was overlap with STAT 572, but that there was space for both courses. The committee provided recommendations for improving the learning outcomes.

Amend to the motion: approve with pending Academic Affairs clarification of the 4 credits (van Pijkeren, Lankau)

Vote: 7-0-0

10. Re-review: CALS International Studies Requirement 2:00-2:10pm
LSC 625 – Risk Communication Goldman/Everyone
Materials in Box

Motion to defer (Goldman, van Pijkeren)

Discussion: There needs to be 50% international content in this course and the instructor has highlighted that content. However, the committee couldn't follow the highlighted material, as it seemed to also include material that was based in the US. Given the learning outcomes, the committee feels that they are missing some information.

The committee requested some more detailed information about the specific discussions or activities in class that reflect international content, particularly when the readings do not appear to be international.

Vote: 6-0-1

INFORMATIONAL AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

11. Graduate seminar discussion Yost

van Pijkeren/Ackerman-

Discussion: Graduate seminars sometimes have difficulty with accommodating learning outcomes and credit hours for both presenters and non-presenters. The university has recently made two changes that directly affect this issue – the UCC is currently not accepting zero-credit courses, and the university has tightened grading options, so that A/F courses can no longer be graded as either A/F or C/Cr for graduate students.

The committee discussed some options to address this issue:

- Presenters enroll in the seminar, and non-presenters attend but do not enroll. The committee discussed that this option requires the program to create a culture of attending the seminar, which can be difficult to establish if it doesn't already exist.
- Non-presenters can be assigned work to demonstrate the learning objectives and satisfy the outside work requirements for a one-credit course. Committee members noted that this could be done within the same course, or as “sister” courses if different learning outcomes are desired.

Each department is set up differently, and the committee discussed some of these differences. There was general acknowledgement that this can be a difficult issue. The committee may return to this issue at a later date to discuss further.

Meeting adjourned 2:15pm