

Minutes

CALS Curriculum Committee Meeting
Tuesday, September 12, 2023, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
6201 MSB

Voting Members:

- Rick Lankau, co-chair (2024)
- Sebastian Bednarek, co-chair (2025)
- Charles Kaspar (2024)
- Tera Holtz (2024)
- Anna Pidgeon (2025)
- Chuck Nicholson (2026)
- Makayla Schuchardt (2026)

Non-Voting Members:

Ex-Officio:

- Megan Ackerman-Yost
- Diana Frantz Anderson

Student Members:

- Hansini Ayyavaripally (2024)
- Kaelyn Stephenson (2024)

Meeting Chair: Lankau

Kaspar, Pidgeon, Lankau, Bednarek, Holtz, Ayyavaripally, Nicholson (until 2:15)

Welcome and Call to Order

- Chairs' Welcome 1:00-1:05
Chairs
- Introduction and Procedures 1:05-1:10
Chairs, Frantz Anderson

Consent Agenda

1. Review meeting minutes from May 9, 2023 1:10-1:15
<https://uwmadison.box.com/s/vh0iemh5gx5obgzlf66nlg43hsd23fc2>
2. **Course Change: Botany 563/PL PATH 563: Phylogenetic Analysis of Molecular Data** 1:15-1:20
Reason: Add senior standing as requisite
Effective: Spring 2024
Recent Review: Sept 2022
<https://next-guide.wisc.edu/courseadmin/?key=1254>

Approved by consent.

Action Items

3. **Program Change – A A E MS Professional Option (MSPO)** 1:20-1:40
Reason: Remove A A E 722 as required course
Effective: Fall 2024
<https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=1007>
Guest: Jordan van Rijn
Bednarek, Kaspar

Guest Discussion: This is a 131 accelerated MS professional program. The program determined that the machine learning course (A A E 722) is more of a niche skill and should be an option for students in the program but not required for all students. A data science course (A A E 718) which is more universally applicable was required for all students beginning this Fall; making 722 an elective will allow students to complete the program in 12 months by finishing in summer when 718 is offered.

Committee Q&A: Students do not need to come in with credits to complete the program in 12 months. Most students will complete the program in 15 months. The option to complete the program in 12 months is possible for very motivated students.

Committee Discussion: Change is well-supported and straight forward.

Motion to Approve: Bednarek/Kaspar

6-0-0

4. **New Course – LSC 480: Culturally Responsive Science Communication**
Effective: Spring 2024
<https://next-guide.wisc.edu/courseadmin/?key=90008>

1:40-1:50
Lankau, Pidgeon
(Stephenson)

Motion to Approve: Lankau/Pidgeon

Discussion: This is a new course in LSC which will fulfill the University Ethnic Studies requirement. The committee suggested review of the participation rubric and learning outcomes for possible overlap.

5-0-1

5. **Course Change – BIOCHEM/NUTR SCI 560: Principles of Human Disease and Biotechnology**
Reason: Add crosslisted subject, refine requisite, change course number, and add graduate attribute
Effective: Spring 2024
Recent Review: March 2023
<https://next-guide.wisc.edu/courseadmin/?key=1128>

1:50-1:55
Kaspar, Nicholson
(Ayyavaripally)

Motion to Approve: Kaspar/Nicholson

Discussion: Recommend additions of rubrics to syllabus for assigned work and review of learning outcome related to group work.

5-0-1

6. **Course Change – SOIL SCI / F&W ECOL 461: Environmental Biogeochemistry**
Reason: Add grad attribute, Biological Science Breadth, LAS – Intermediate
Effective: Spring 2024
<https://next-guide.wisc.edu/courseadmin/?key=86603>

1:55-2:05
Bednarek, Nicholson

Motion to Approve: Bednarek/Nicholson

Discussion: Syllabus and supporting documents are comprehensive. Rubrics are excellent with subtle yet meaningful differences between graduate and undergraduate expectations.

6-0-0

7. **Course Change – BOTANY/F&W ECOL 402: Dendrology: Woody Plant Identification Ecology**
Reason: Change title, credit hours, and requisites
Effective: Summer 2024
<https://next-guide.wisc.edu/courseadmin/?key=1240>

2:05-2:15
Kaspar, Holtz

Motion to Approve: Kaspar/Holtz

Discussion: Changes are appropriate. Suggest additional rubric and description of grading.

6-0-0

8. **New Course – MICROBIO 150: Microbiomes and Microbiology First-Year Seminar**
Re-Review (3-28-23): Sample readings, assigned work, and rationale updated
Effective: Spring 2024
<https://next-guide.wisc.edu/courseadmin/?key=89958>

2:15-2:20
Holtz, Pidgeon
(Ayyavvaripally)

Motion to Approve: Holtz, Pidgeon

Discussion: Issues identified in Spring 2023 review are resolved. The Committee recommends more clarity around attendance and participation when the course is taught.

5-0-1

9. **New Course – MICROBIO 357: General Bioinformatics for Microbiologists**

2:20-2:30
Pidgeon, Lankau

Effective: Spring 2024

<https://next-guide.wisc.edu/courseadmin/?key=89999>

Motion to Defer: Pidgeon/Lankau

Discussion: The Committee recommends differentiation of 357 and 657 in durable course content (course description and requisites). Consider a change in title that clarifies the relationship between the courses.

5-0-1

10. Course Change – F&W ECOL 300: Forest Measurements

Reason: Update title, description, requisites, learning outcomes

Effective: Spring 2024

<https://next-guide.wisc.edu/courseadmin/?key=84187>

2:30-2:40

Lankau, Holtz

Move to Approve: Lankau/Holtz

Discussion: This proposal changes the name and prerequisites. The Committee recommends more information in the syllabus describing assigned work.

6-0-0

11. New Course – HORT 187: Plants and the Science of Survival

Effective: Spring 2024

<https://next-guide.wisc.edu/courseadmin/?key=90044>

2:40-2:50

Holtz, Schuchardt
(Stephenson)

Motion to Approve with review by Academic Affairs: Holtz/Kaspar

Discussion: The Committee recommends a change to the transcript title and suggests that the in-person and virtual discussions be differentiated more clearly in the syllabus.

6-0-0

12. Course Change – F&W ECOL/ A A E 652: Decision Methods for Natural Resources Managers

Reason: Update requisite, learning outcomes, credits, component type

Effective: Spring 2024

<https://next-guide.wisc.edu/courseadmin/?key=84199>

2:50-3:00

Bednarek, Schuchardt

Motion to Approve: Bednarek, Holtz

Discussion: Rationale for changes to prerequisites and credits is well-supported. Consider additional information regarding large summative assessment.

Vote: 5-0-0

Adjourned: 2:24pm

Informational and Discussion Items