

University Undergraduate Academic Council
December 4, 2019
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
CEHS Dean's Conference Room

Present: K. Witemeyer, J. Smith, S. Hamm, D. Mayhall, D. McAnulty, B. Burton, M. Delony, K. Hatfield, R. Ashlock, M. Daughterity, P. Roggendorff

Absent:

Ex-officios: B. Fang, M. McCallon, M. Long, (E. Gumm and V. McCracken were absent)

Guests: J. Homer, S. Easter, S. Jones, G. Straughn, D. Pemberton, C. Riley

The meeting began at 3:30 p.m.

I. Call to order by J. Smith.

II. Prayer by D. McAnulty.

III. Approval of the minutes from 11.6.19

Motion to approve the minutes with change to spelling of Autumn Sutherlin by B. Burton; seconded by M. Daughterity; all in favor; motion passes.

Information Items:

- IV. CHEM 423 – Revise Prerequisites
- V. DET Minor – Revise Course Selection
- VI. CS 230 – Revise Prerequisites
- VII. CS 315 – Revise Prerequisites
- VIII. CS 316 – Revise Title, Description, and Prerequisites
- IX. DET 230 – Revise Title and Course Term
- X. DET 410 – Revise Title and Prerequisites
- XI. IT 325 – Revise Prerequisites

Action Items

XII. MGMT 322 – New Course

S. Easter - This is a new course designed to give students exposure to sustainability from a business perspective. It is open to all majors, not just COBA students. We take many field trips and use a variety of faculty guests from various fields. This is an upper-level elective. This is taught as a short course, either in January or May.

J. Smith - Do you think the outcomes would hold true even if it were offered in a different format? S. Easter. Yes. R. Ashlock - What is the usual class size? S. Easter - We cap it at 20 due to the discussion-based nature of the course and field trips. R. Ashlock - Do you think other faculty could teach this course if you were unable? S. Easter - Yes.

Motion to approve by B. Burton; seconded by R. Ashlock; all in favor; motion passes.

XIII. MUSM 234 – New Course & Inclusion of Historical Literacy and Cultural Awareness Menus

G. Straughn - This is a modification of an Intro to Music type of course which fits well on the Cultural Awareness menu. We have seen a need for more courses on the Historical Literacy menu. This course would be a good fit for that emphasis. It focuses on the 19th century and emphasizes the art, music, and political changes going on in Europe.

J. Smith - I see it noted as Fall, odd rotation but the first offering is Fall 2020? G. Straughn - we can change it to Fall, even. J. Smith - You are always allowed to offer it more than stipulated, but we just need to know what the regular pattern will be.

R. Ashlock - It seems very Euro-centric. So as a Cultural Awareness course, is that too focused? G. Straughn - Europe was expanding at that time, into Africa and Asia. I think there will be many rich areas to explore. R. Ashlock - Can that be reflected more in the syllabus? Every art piece is very white. It would be nice to be able to see the diversity in the syllabus.

D. McNulty - I have a fair degree of discomfort with our Historical Literacy field shifting away from History. If this was the only Historical Literacy course a student took, is that a good thing? G. Straughn - I think we are moving in the right direction. We have 4 other non-HIST courses already on the menu. However, I think that thinking of history from different perspectives is still understanding history and teaching students to think from a historical perspective to understand broader contexts. K. Hatfield - Ultimately it's about worldviews and how they have changed over the years in many spheres.

S. Hamm - Should European History be in the title to reflect the emphasis? G. Straughn - I am open to a change. Arts and History in 19th Century Europe. S. Hamm - Even having it clarified in the course description. J. Smith - Would that change limit the scope of the course? G. Straughn - No.

Motion to approve the course with a change to the title as noted and with rotation revised to fall, even. Motion to approve by Brian Burton, K. Hatfield seconded. All in favor; motion passes.

R. Ashlock - I would like UGEC to vet this before we vote on it for inclusion on the menus, even though it means a third step.

M. Daugherty - If we approve it, will it still go through a UGEC vote? J. Smith - Yes. M. Daugherty - I would rather vote on it now, then let UGEC look at it next week. R. Ashlock - I would like to hear what they say. J. Smith - We can make the minutes available. D. McAnulty - I agree with Rodney.

R. Ashlock - moves to table until UGEC discusses. D. McAnulty seconds. 7 in favor, 1 against, 1 abstain. We will table and bring it back for more discussion after UGEC.

XIV. NUEX – Add KINE 100, Remove PEAC Menu

S. Jones - This was the idea for this degree track all along, to have KINE 100 as part of the degree plan. We want to remove the limited PEAC menu, so that students can select from any PEAC course. They will have a total of 3 PEAC required courses - KINE 100, KINE 206, and a wide open PEAC selection. The addition of KINE 100 means the elective hours will be reduced by one hour.

R. Ashlock - So you think they need this course even with all of their other KINE coursework? S. Jones - Yes. These majors will be teaching wellness, so this is an important course for them to have.

Motion to approve by M. Daugherty; seconded by R. Ashlock; all in favor; motion passes.

XV. DET – Revision of Major

J. Homer - For the past 10 years, DET has been very interdisciplinary since we initially only had one faculty member. Now we have two, and we are looking at how best to implement the strengths of our faculty as well as updating a field that changes rapidly. We've seen students choose the minimum effort path which didn't actually help them professionally. We are encouraging them to focus on a specific concentration and areas of expertise to allow them to perform better professionally. Concentration language is required for our accreditation body. We had smaller concentration areas before, now we have larger concentration areas with more focused coursework, still leaving 12 elective hours in the degree plan. We are closing the general track and forcing students to select a focus area.

P. Roggendorff - What about transfer students? Will they be at a disadvantage without the more flexible general track? B. Burton - We will work with them with substitutions if needed. The more rigorous, more focused degree is really needed for the students to be successful in industry. We are the highest ranked game design program among Christian universities, and we have many students coming to us specifically because of that.

Motion to approve the changes including striking the general track by M. Daugherty; seconded by P. Roggendorff; all in favor; motion passes.

XVI. DET 310 – Close Course

J. Homer - This was a junior-level course designed to help students expand into different interest areas. We were trying to fit them all into one project-based class to allow them to work on what they were interested in. With the new courses, they will have more focused courses to take.

J. Smith - What is the teach-out plan for students who are required to take this course?

J. Homer - We have 50-55 DET students currently. The current seniors have already taken it. The juniors are taking it now. We will encourage younger students to change catalogs and use substitutions for any who choose not to move. J. Smith - So you do not intend to teach it again, correct? J. Homer - Yes.

Motion to approve by R. Ashlock; seconded by S. Hamm; all in favor; motion passes.

XVII. CS 118 – New Course

J. Homer - Right now we have two introductory courses that all our majors take. DET and IS majors are required to take CS 116. However, it is not the best for them to be combined. We will leave CS 116 for IS majors. DET majors will move to taking CS 118 as their requirement.

M. Daugherty - Why is it a CS prefix instead of DET? J. Homer - It is a programming course, and all of our programming classes have the CS prefix. J. Smith - So CS 116 will remain unchanged? J. Homer - The overall scope will remain unchanged.

XVIII. DET 305 – New Course

J. Homer - This is a game texture class. It has been taught a couple times as a special topics course. It is a very popular course with our students. B. Burton - They gain a lot of skills in Photoshop. This is where they are painting the environments inside games.

XIX. DET 315 – New course

B. Burton - Game Materials teaches how to create realistic - physicality-based rendering. This is a brand new field that is expanding rapidly. It will be taught the first time this spring and is already full. The students are very excited about it.

J. Smith - The proposal indicates that it will be offered in the summer. Is that correct? J. Homer - Yes. B. Burton - Our students are often looking for summer classes, so they will look for this.

XX. DET 330 – New Course

B. Burton - This teaches 3D animation and will fit in with our other 3D courses.

XXI. DET 360 – New Course

B. Burton - This is our virtual reality course. It has been offered as a special topics course as well.

XXII. DET 365 – New Course

B. Burton - They are using game engines to create animated shorts or animated films.

J. Smith - In the application and the syllabus - there are different competencies. If these are subsets, I would advise removing those to make clear which are the outcomes. We want them to agree in both places.

XXIII. DET 370 – New Course

B. Burton - This is our serious games course. We are creating educational games.

J. Smith - I have the same concerns about the outcomes for this one.

Motion to approve items XVII - XXIII with updating of learning objectives in DET 365 and 370 by P. Roggendorff; seconded by S. Hamm; all in favor; motion passes.

XXIV. ITC 125 – New Course

J. Homer - This is designed to create a freshman-level introduction to human-computer interaction. How do we design web pages? What engages people? There is some psychology behind it. We look at design principles and utilize user-testing. We want it to be a no-prerequisite introductory course so that it might be considered for inclusion on the social science menu. We have an existing 300-level course that our majors take in this field, but we want to take some of the basic information from the course and expand it. The CS 330 course will have this as a prerequisite added in the future.

J. Smith - There is an interactive nature of the course with the upper-level course? J. Homer - Yes.

Motion to approve by M. Daugherty; seconded by M. Delony; all in favor; motion passes.

XXV. ITC 125 – Inclusion on Social Sciences Menu

D. McAnulty - Compared to all the other classes in that menu, this one seems a little more focused. Design is a technical skill that many non-majors will not have. Is it broad enough? J. Homer - This is still about perception and emotion. Students are not creating design, they are observing and processing. The technical aspects are not required for students in this course. Technology is such a big part of our culture today.

D. McAnulty - What is the attraction to students from other departments? If there is broad appeal, then I would support it. J. Smith - Human-computer interaction tends to be a fairly wide field. I studied it in communication. J. Homer - This is a growing field in sociology, anthropology, etc.

M. Daugherty - The majority of the social science menu is composed of communication courses, and communication is now done through technology for the most part, so this seems to fit very well to me.

Motion to approve contingent on UGEC approval by M. Daugherty; seconded by K. Hatfield; 7 in favor; 2 abstentions; motion passes.

XXVI. SITC Course Repeat Policy

J. Smith - Some of you may be familiar with the COBA policy of only allowing students to repeat an SITC course 3 times.

J. Homer - We have seen a low number of students who fail or withdraw from a course multiple times without success. We try to mediate this with advising and conversations with students, but there are many who are stubborn. At some level, this is to keep them from harming themselves. I don't think we will need to invoke this policy very often. No one who has taken a course a fourth time has done well.

J. Smith - This is a unique policy, only used by COBA. It does have to be manually enforced. This would apply to CS majors, DET, and the CS teaching programs.

Motion to approve by D. McAnulty; seconded by P. Roggendorff; all in favor; motion passes.

Meeting ended at 5:00 p.m.