

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 31, 2015 MEETING OF THE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

Location: SRB 340

Present: Christopher Tillquist (chair), John Busch, Changbing Hu, Dwain Pruitt, Wendy Yoder

Absent: Simona Bertacco, Matt Church

Guests: Timothy Dowling (Physics), Wendy Pfeffer (Associate Dean for Graduate Education), David Simpson (UPA)

The meeting was convened at 1:20 PM.

13-15S: SIGS currently allows departments the option of accepting up to 6 hours of coursework in which a student earned a C+, C, or C- toward degree completion. The Department of Communication proposed to allow its MA students to receive up to 6 hours of credit for C+/C/C- work, but to mandate that MA students must earn a grade of B- or higher in core courses (COMM 506, 601, 605, 616 and 617) in order to satisfy their degree requirements. Concerns were voiced about the proposed language, which reads:

Proposed Policy Verbiage

In order to be in good academic standing and be retained in the program, students must maintain an overall grade point average of at least 3.0. The Department of Communication may approve up to six hours of coursework in which a grade of "C+, C, or C-" was received to count toward the completion of degree requirements. However, students must receive a grade of B- or better in each of the Department's core courses (Communication 506, 601, 605, 616, and 617) in order to satisfy degree requirements.

Specifically, concerns were raised about the use of "may," instead of "will" in the second sentence and about whether accepting a grade of B- will represent an appreciable increase in programmatic quality. The committee **DEFERRED** voting on the change until a departmental representative can attend and address its concerns.

14-15S: The committee **APPROVED** the Department of Chemistry's request to convert CHEM 695 to a P/F grading scale.

15-15S: The committee **APPROVED** the Department of Justice Administration's change to CJ 748's title and description. Its new title will be "Seminar in Criminal Justice Program Planning and Evaluation." Its new description will read:

This course features: an introduction to the theory and practice of criminal justice planning, their strengths and weaknesses, the application of social scientific research methods to determine the effectiveness of criminal justice programs, analysis of reports of evaluative research and the preparation and analysis of evaluation research reports.

16-15S: The committee reviewed the proposed new course "CJ 752: Advanced Research Methods in Criminal Justice." The committee noted that the CIF indicates that the course will feature 65 hours of lecture, which needs to be changed to 42. Questions were raised about the course's grading and

requirements. The syllabus indicates that students will sit for two examinations, but it does not explain those examinations' nature. The committee **DEFERRED** taking action on this item pending the availability of a departmental representative.

17-15S: Dr. Timothy Dowling explained that the Department of Physics and Astronomy uses PHYS 361 as a gateway course into its Atmospheric Science program. The faculty has discovered that many students come to the course as third-year students without the requisite mathematics acumen to be successful. The department, therefore, proposed to change the course's math prerequisites to include MATH 206 and concurrent enrollment in MATH 301. The committee **APPROVED** the change.

18-15S: The Department of Physics and Astronomy proposed changing the prerequisites for PHYS 541 to include MATH 301. The committee **APPROVED** this change.

19-15S: Dr. David Simpson presented the proposed new sustainability concentration within SIGS' Interdisciplinary MA/MS. As detailed in the submitted proposal, this concentration would allow several A&S departments to partner with other units to offer a unique degree option. The program has been in development for approximately 2 years and will take advantage of existing courses and specializations, adding only one new required course (SUST 600: Introduction to Sustainability). For convenience's sake, the program will be administratively housed in Urban and Public Affairs with Dr. Simpson as its interim director. The provost has already committed her support to this program, offering financial support for the equivalent of a hire at the rank of Associate Professor (funds which are currently being used to offer x-pay, but that will ultimately be used for a new hire). SIGS has volunteered support for two GA positions. All speedtypes associated with this proposed program are controlled by SIGS. Degrees awarded through this program would be double-counted as both a degree in SIGS' interdisciplinary program and as a degree awarded by the thesis director's home department. After Dr. Simpson's overview, discussion turned to friendly amendments to the proposal. Dr. Busch suggested that the current language requiring that students take either a statistics course or a methods course be revised to have students only take an appropriate methods course, arguing that a single statistics course would prove less valuable to a student than a thorough grounding in a research methods. Dr. Tillquist inquired about the program's mention of portfolio options, which Dr. Simpson explained as being an option for students in Fine Arts. Dr. Tillquist recommended that new language be added explicitly stating that students pursuing the MS option would be required to prepare a thesis, not a portfolio. This suggestion was also accepted. Additional discussion focused on recommended language revisions. The committee **APPROVED** this proposal and will forward the revised document to the Planning and Budget Committee for its review.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:49 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dwain C. Pruitt, Ph.D.
Assistant Dean for Curriculum and Governance
Prepared March 31, 2015

College of Arts and Sciences
Curriculum Committee
March 31, 2015
SRB 340

AGENDA

1) New Business (attached)

- 13-15S: Proposed Change to the Communication MA Degree
- 14-15S: Proposed Change to CHEM 695 (grading scale)
- 15-15S: Proposed Change to CJ 748 (title and description)
- 16-15S: Addition of CJ 752, "Advanced Research Methods in Criminal Justice"
- 17-15S: Change to PHYS 361 (prerequisite change)
- 18-15S: Change to PHYS 541 (prerequisite change)
- 19-15S: Proposed MA/MS Interdisciplinary degree; concentration in Sustainability