

Minutes

CALS Curriculum Committee Meeting
Tuesday, October 27, 2020, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Voting members present: Courtenay, Goldman, Holden, Kucharik, Ney, Van Pijkeren, Vermillion Kalmon, Wattiaux

Student Members present: Mui

Absent: Rossman

Ex Officio: Ackerman-Yost, Barber

Minutes Taken by: Arnfelt

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Review meeting minutes from October 13, 2020
2. Biology – Honors in the Major updates:
 - Changing coursework requirement from “500-level or above” to “meeting the intermediate/advanced biology requirement”
 - Updating section headings to align with Guide

Items 1 and 2 approved by consent.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Program change
Genetics and Genomics BS
Effective Fall 2021
<https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=44>
1:05-1:25pm
Guests: Vermillion Kalmon, Foley
Holden/Wattiaux

Motion to approve (Holden, Wattiaux)

Guest speakers Katie Vermillion Kalmon and Lauren Foley gave updates on the program changes, which decreased the organic chemistry requirement and clarified former subset requirements into Genetics depth and breadth requirements, with some small reorganization. The guests indicated that the organic chemistry requirement was updated to reflect the broad range of career paths available to Genetics and Genomics graduates, which do not all require two semesters of organic chemistry plus lab. They also indicated that this change could improve access and equity issues.

Discussion: The committee commented that many students struggle in organic chemistry, not just under-privileged populations, and they support the change in that requirement for Genetics and Genomics students. The committee agrees that this may open more pathways for Genetics and Genomics graduates. There were not any concerns about the proposed changes. The committee did note that it looks like some cross listed courses were removed accidentally, so the department should make sure to get those back in Lumen.

Vote: 7-0-1

2. New Course
AN SCI 240

Ancient Animals and Peoples

Effective Summer 2021

<https://next-guide.wisc.edu/courseadmin/?key=13995>

1:35-1:45pm
Van Pijkeren/Kucharik

Motion to approve pending revisions on learning outcomes (Van Pijkeren, Kucharik)

Discussion: The committee felt that there were not any concerns with overlap with other courses at UW-Madison. However, the course includes eight learning outcomes, and there were concerns that some were broad and hard to measure. The committee directed some revisions on the learning outcomes to be more concise and more measurable. Also, the committee discussed possible fairness issues with the group paper assignment. The committee noted that the course appears to be based on one taught at UC-Davis.

Vote: 8-0-0

3. New Course

FOOD SCI 150: Fermented Food and Beverages: Science, Art and Health Vermillion Kalmon/Goldman

Effective Summer 2021

<https://next-guide.wisc.edu/courseadmin/?key=13953>

1:25-1:35pm

Motion to approve with revisions (Vermillion Kalmon, Goldman)

Discussion: The committee felt this was a great new course to offer students. However, the committee raised concerns regarding how students would get/buy the materials for the at-home labs, and when this extra charge was communicated to students. The committee directed including more details on the syllabus about the expectations for these labs at home.

Vote: 8-0-0

4. Part 1: International Studies Requirement application review and discussion
 - a. Final voting should be delayed until all applications are reviewed.

Discussion: The committee discussed a subset of the international studies requirement courses that were proposed. A final vote for all applications will occur once all applications are discussed to ensure consistency.

INFORMATIONAL AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Guide editing period
2. Obsolete course process

Ackerman-Yost
Ackerman-Yost

Megan had some announcements for the committee. Guide editing period is coming up shortly for non-governed content, and departmental staff will be reviewing narrative pages such as the Overview and Advising. In addition, the obsolete course process was kicked off by campus last week. Campus sent communication to departments regarding courses that haven't been taught in 8 years, starting a course discontinuation proposal. If departments want the course to continue, they will need to submit a request, followed by a course proposal.

Meeting adjourned 2:30 pm