

Minutes

CALS Curriculum Committee Meeting
Tuesday, January 12, 2021, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

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

Student Members present: Mui, Rossman

Absent: Wattiaux

Ex Officio: Barber, Ackerman-Yost

Minutes Taken by: Ackerman-Yost

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Review meeting minutes from December 8, 2020

Approved by consent.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Major program changes
Guests: David Eide 1:05-1:25pm
Katie Butzen

Nutritional Sciences MS and PhD

Holden/Goldman

Effective Fall 2021

<https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=665>

<https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=794>

Description: current program was developed over 20 years ago, so time was ripe.

- Remove emphasis group, which tended to silo students
- Reduce required electives from 12 to 6 courses. Required coursework is already lengthy, and program finds that currently students need to delay their qualifying exam.
- In line with peer programs
- Two new courses

Motion to approve: Holden/Goldman

Discussion: The committee supports the changes to these programs. They will be beneficial for students and help to streamline the curriculum. The committee discussed the benefits and drawbacks to requiring specific graduate coursework for graduate programs in general.

Vote: 7-0-0

2. **See Information/Discussion Items for next agenda item**

3. Re-review: New Course Wattiaux/Ney 1:45-1:55p
PL PATH/A A E/AGRONOMY/HORT 367:
Introduction to Organic Agriculture: Production, Markets, and Policy
Effective Fall 2021
<https://next-guide.wisc.edu/courseadmin/?key=14033>

Motion to defer: Ney/Goldman

Discussion: continued concern over the alignment of learning outcomes with the description of topics. The information provided in the schedule was general and sometimes covered multiple weeks.

Vote 6-1-0

4. Re-review: New Course Courtenay/Van Pijkeren 1:55-2:05p
PL PATH 499: Independent Study in Organic Agriculture
Effective Fall 2021
<https://next-guide.wisc.edu/courseadmin/?key=14052>

Motion to approve: Courtenay/Van Pijkeren

Discussion: The supplemental information provided by the program alleviated the major concerns of the committee.

Vote: 7-0-0

5. **See Information/Discussion Items for next agenda item**

6. New Course Kucharik/Ney 2:20-2:30pm
MICROBIO 345: Introduction to Disease Biology
Effective Fall 2021
<https://next-guide.wisc.edu/courseadmin/?key=14046>

Motion to approve: Ney/Kucharik

Discussion: This is an introductory course. The instructor has addressed the concerns about the discussion. Committee wants to ensure that all students will meet the learning outcomes by only completing one of the discussion topics. #2 and 6 start with “understand” – choose a more measurable verb. Our student members indicated that the discussion section information was a bit confusing re: attend one of five sections.

Vote: 6-0-0

INFORMATIONAL AND DISCUSSION ITEM

1. New Graduate Certificate Guests: Dietram Scheufele 1:25-1:45pm
Tera Wagner

Certificate in Science Communication

Effective Fall 2021
<https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=1135>

Description: The department has an existing PhD Minor, which has been very popular from other programs across campus. Students want something transcriptable, and it facilitates particularly students who wish to pursue non-academic careers or augment their education. The department has considered the potential for an increase in enrollment, and believes they have the capacity for this increase based on the current enrollments as well as the addition of recent faculty. The committee questioned what the capacity and opportunities are for faculty mentorship in this program – the program indicated that it doesn't feel different from what is currently occurring, where students often have mentorship at the doctoral level even if they don't declare the doctoral minor and may request faculty to be part of their committees.

Comments from committee: The committee is in support of the graduate certificate and has no suggestions for improvement.

2. New Undergraduate Certificate

2:05-2:20pm

Organic Agriculture Certificate

Effective Fall 2021

<https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=1189>

Comments from committee: Assessment plan for the certificate indicates that the same PLOs are covered by both Intro to Agroecology and Intro to Organic Agriculture, but the response to the committee regarding the difference between the two courses indicate that the Agroecology course does not cover all those PLOs.

- Very valuable topic area for undergraduates
- Appreciate the review of other certificates
- Concern that two CALS certificates are so close that students can't do both – students could benefit from greater differentiation in program offerings, and concern about relying on a small collection of specialized courses to support a number of programs
- Appreciate the structure for the independent study requirement
- Concern about capacity for instruction for the independent study