

All University Committee (AUC)
Thursday, November 7, 2024
3:30 P.M.
Miller Oval

Committee Members in Attendance: Patricia Arend, Michael Burns, Josh Cronin, Steven Fiedler, Laura Garofoli, Peter Staab, Paul Weizer, Mark Williams

Committee Members Absent: Franca Barricelli, Laura Bayless, Jonathan Harvey, Patricia Marshall, Aline Salles, Kisha Tracy

Guests in Attendance: Carin Bullis, Denise Sargent

Meeting called to order at 3:32 p.m.

Acceptance of Standing Committee Minutes

- Student Affairs: 10/1/2024
- Academic Policy: 10/8/2024
- Curriculum: 10/17/2024

Motion: Peter Staab Second: Josh Cronin

Vote: Unanimous

Approval of AUC Minutes

AUC Convening Meeting: 9/12/2024

Motion: Peter Staab Second: Josh Cronin

Amendments:

- Mark Williams needs to be added as attended the meeting.
- Need to add the summer committee under 2A:
 Laura Bayless, Michael Burns, Josh Cronin, Laura Garofoli, Patricia Marshall, Paul Weizer

Vote with Amendments: Unanimous

Proposals to Refer to Subcommittees

Refer proposals AUC 2, AUCs 8 – 10, to the Curriculum Subcommittee

Motion: Peter Staab Second: Patricia Arend

Vote: Unanimous

“Referral Not Required” (RNR) Proposals for Consideration

AUC 3: Adding a prerequisite option to PSY 2040 Research Methods and Statistics I

Motion: Patricia Arend Second: Peter Staab

Laura Garofoli spoke to the proposal.

This is for our “Research Methods and Statistics” sequence which is a two course sequence. We have students take Applied Statistics to then have a 2.0 in that course and we did not have the other Math 1700 equivalent course, so we’re just adding that.

Vote to recommend for approval as an RNR: Unanimous

AUC 4: Prerequisite Change to PSY 3100 Clinical Psychology

Motion: Peter Staab Second: Josh Cronin

Laura Garofoli spoke to the proposal.

Our Clinical Psychology course that’s 3000-level course that has our second Statistics course as the prerequisite. Want to make it the first prerequisite so it’s easily accessible for the students early on in the curriculum.

Vote to recommend for approval as an RNR: Unanimous

AUC 5: PSY 3020 Cultural Psychology Course Number Change

Motion: Josh Cronin Second: Patricia Arend

Laura Garofoli spoke to the proposal.

Our Cultural Psychology course was put through as a 3000-level course with 2000 level prerequisites. In examining the curriculum, we have removed the 2000 level prerequisite and we now have Intro to Psychological Science course as the prerequisite. We are teaching the course at a 2000 level. We would like to renumber the course at a 2000-level to reflect the level the course is taught at.

Amendment: (Question 2: Brief Proposal Summary) A committee member noted a typo where it says: “is not being taught at the level of our other 2000 electives”. Need to change the “not” to “now”. **Laura Garofoli accepted the amendment.**

Vote to recommend for approval as an RNR with Amendment: Unanimous

AUC 6: Change the Prerequisite for Exercise Physiology II EXSS 2072

Motion: Peter Staab Second: Patricia Arend

A committee member does not think this proposal should go through as an RNR because of the new prerequisites. Thinks this needs to come back as a full proposal to the committee.

Vote to recommend for approval as an RNR: Unanimously opposed

AUC 7: Delete 6-Hour Field Experience for SPED 2002 Speech and Language Development for Diverse Learners

Motion: Josh Cronin Second: Steven Fiedler

Denise Sargent spoke to the proposal.

Committee discussed they're debating sending back because it removes the practicum, seems like a more substantial curriculum change. It's a fine line when Human Services removed field hours in their courses that went through full proposals. Question is do we do that here or send this to the Curriculum Committee?

Proposer stated: Our students by the time they finish program they've been in a classroom almost a full year. We have over 1,000 hours of field work. For this course, we've been waiving the 6-hour pre-practicum for a long time because we need to place 45 students in a speech language pathologist, but typically in an elementary school there's only one; so, because of that it becomes difficult logistically. So, in place of that we give them case studies or sometimes we have an SLP as a guest speaker to talk to the students in the class. They are not doing the 6 hours anyways.

They have to do a 300-hour practicum for the initial license; they have to have pre-practicum hours; they do 630 hours in the practicum; they do 2 days of IPP in the classroom. Our students have over 1000 hours and it is very field heavy. So, removing the 6-hours is nothing compared to the other hours they are still putting into the curriculum.

When they were doing it they didn't have assignments, it was just observations of SLP. There're so many videos that you can bring that in. We're not preparing SLPs we're preparing teachers. So, they need to know other skills not necessarily speech and language therapy.

The last time we had a student complete the 6-hour field experience, it was pre-pandemic. But even then they couldn't all go to an SLP so we'd end up putting them in classrooms, so it's always been an issue.

Vote to recommend for approval as an RNR: Unanimous

AUC 11: Prerequisite Change for CSC 2560 Systems Programming

Motion: Josh Cronin Second: Peter Staab

Looking to change a prerequisite to a corequisite. A committee member who was in communication with the sponsor stated that's not what he meant. What he meant was they could take it simultaneously.

We can table this and recommend that the corequisite be turn to concurrent. That would then still be okay for this to come through as an RNR.

Motion to table AUC 11 by Laura Garofoli and seconded by Josh Cronin

Vote to table: Unanimous

Items from the Floor

Item 1: RNR Proposals

When the proposals come to the AUC chairs, can the chairs make recommendations if they feel it should not come through as an RNR and recommend that it goes back and resubmitted as a proposal before we meet as a committee? Or do we allow the committee to make that determination?

Do we want to make a rule that chairs provide guidance if something is RNR or not? There will be tremendous delay if we have them go through just to have them need to come back to send as a full proposal, so it delays things. The same for if a full proposal comes through and we find it can be an RNR, and not have to go through curriculum and the whole process.

Is it a by-law? Someone asked. Chair answered it may be in policies and procedures and practices.

Mark Williams motioned and Peter Staab seconded the consultations with requestors and proposers. Noting that, AUC authorizes the chairs to provide guidance to proposers on whether something would or would not qualify as an RNR proposal.

Vote: Unanimous

Item 2: Departments BA/BS Distinctions

There are a number of departments making changes on the BA/BS distinctions that was recommended by our accreditors.

One of the departments was ready to put the proposal together but realized that such proposal does not fit on our AUC forms we ask proposers to use. So, we are looking for some guidance on how should the departments proceed so we can send something out to let them know what the process is?

So, we have the new program form for if they want to create a new BA or BS program. But we don't have a form for if we have an existing program and want to change it to something else; that's where we are seeing the issue. One way you could do it is if you put it through a new program form but that would require a lot of work, for a cosmetic change.

- English Studies wants to take their current BA and get rid of it. And take the current pathway through the BS and label that as a BA, because that's exactly what it is.
- Psychological Science has a BA and BS and want to get rid of the BA and just keep the BS.

In those circumstances it would be easy to put the proposal through stating that. But in Biology/Chemistry they are intentionally creating those two pathways, that is a new program. This would be messy.

It's almost like relabeling something. But then it's not just relabeling if they are making changes to curriculum, "Example: Only want to offer a BS but that BS would require XYZ extra", that would be a new program proposal. So depends on what people are doing, can factor how the form comes through.

Committee member asked if new program proposal would that need BHE approval?

The default degree at Fitchburg State is a BS with one math and one science course. In order to get the BA, you have to add language. We're trying as a campus to clean that up.

Discussion on the generic proposal form and scenarios if the put it through as either policy change or program change.

Think Kisha will need to be involved because she created the forms. It would need to come to the committee as a new AUC form. But we're trying to figure out how we can do it with the forms we have now and if we can't we will need authorize someone to change it so we can do it quickly to fix the issue.

A committee member suggested maybe we could add a check box to number 9 of the form that says "BA/BS designations in departments per NECHE" or "degree update". Committee members agreed that would be the best bet for how to do it.

Will continue the discussion at the next meeting when we have more of the committee here.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:16 p.m.

Motion: Patricia Arend Second: Mark Williams

Vote: Unanimous