

AUC Curriculum Committee Draft Minutes
Thursday April 28, 2022

Attendees: Aisling O'Connor (Co-Secretary, Biology/Chemistry)
Aruna Krishnamurthy (Co-Chair, English Studies)
Cheryl Goldman (Psychological Science)
Christine Devine (Nursing)
Danielle Wigmore (Exercise & Sports Science)
Elizabeth Gordon (Co-Secretary, Earth and Geographic Sciences)
Heather Urbanski (English Studies)
Jared Vanasse (Earth and Geographic Sciences)
J.J. Sylvia (Communications Media)
Jonathan Harvey (Co-Secretary, Humanities)
Laurie Link (Education)
Meg Hoey (Dean of Health & Natural Sciences)
Sara Levine (Dean of Arts & Sciences)
Soumitra Basu (Co-Chair, Engineering Technology)
William Cortezia (Education)

Absent: Adem Elveren (Economics, History, & Political Science)
Barbara Cormier (University Registrar)
Catherine Buell (Mathematics)
Lori Steckervetz (Library)
Nicholas Taylor (SGA Representative)
Steve Olson (SGA Senator)

Guests: Billy Samulak
Elizabeth Kilpatrick
Eric Budd
Kisha Tracy
Lisa Moison
Michael Nosek
Paul Weizer
Richard Wiebe
Sarah Bromberg
Sean Rollins
Wayne Whitfield

1. Call to Order

Soumi called the meeting to order at 3:31pm.

2. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes from the Curriculum Committee meeting of April 19, 2022: Will Cortezia

Second: J.J. Sylvia

Vote: 14/0/0 (For / Against / Abstain)

3. New Business – review of proposals

AUC 55: Poverty and Inequality in the Developing World

Sponsor: Eric Budd

Motion to consider: Will Cortezia

Second: J.J. Sylvia

Eric: The course was taught last year, and went well, so EHPS intends to have it replace an existing course that has not been offered since 2012.

Discussion:

Aruna: Was it cross-listed with IDIS? Eric: No, it wasn't, but this is a very interdisciplinary course within a very interdisciplinary program.

Vote: 14/0/0

AUC 56: Remove POLS 3800 “Third World Politics, Economics and Society” from Catalog

Sponsor: Eric Budd

Motion to consider: Will Cortezia

Second: J.J. Sylvia

Eric: Wherever the old course appeared in the catalog, the new course will replace it.

Discussion: NONE

Vote: 14/0/0

AUC 58: Designating CJ_GEOG 3004, GIS for Criminal Justice, as an alternative to CJ 3140

Sponsor: Richard P. Wiebe

Motion to consider: Will Cortezia

Second: J.J. Sylvia

Richard: CJ is certified by the BHE, and in the last program review, the board recommended another scientific analysis course. At the time, they added CJ 3140. Now, they hope to add an alternative course for that major requirement - GEOG 3004. They have consulted with the EGS department, and everyone is on board to offer the course once each year.

Discussion:

Aruna: It seems like when you compare the new catalog language with the old catalog language on the proposal, there are additional changes to the CJ major core beyond what is in this proposal. Richard: There was some spatial reorganization, but no curricular changes. Liz G.: EGS department strongly supports this proposal.

Vote: 14/0/0

AUC 68: IHIP Designations for 19 ENGL Literature Courses

Sponsor: Kisha Tracy

Motion to consider: Will Cortezia

Second: J.J. Sylvia

Kisha: This is the last Gen Ed bulk proposal from ENGL. This is for 19 ENGL courses to get IHIP designations - some for study abroad, some for student/faculty research, some for writing intensive, some for civic engagement.

Discussion:

Liz G.: Wondering about the civic engagement aspect for Folklore. Civic engagement requires reciprocal benefit to students and community - how does that happen in this course? Kisha: Michael Hoberman teaches this course now, and the intergenerational storytelling element is the reciprocal benefit. Aruna: a significant portion of the course is dedicated to this story exchange component - almost a journalistic, fieldwork-type model. Liz G.: This is helpful, but it doesn't show up in the syllabus. Kisha: We will pass that feedback along to Michael.

Vote: 14/0/1

AUC 69: Updates to the IDIS General Science Initial Teacher License (5-8)

Sponsor: Billy Samulak

Motion to consider: Will Cortezia

Second: J.J. Sylvia

Billy: The General Science Initial Teacher License (5-8) program came about in 2019 in response to DESE changes, and in the years since, some issues have arisen. The changes in this proposal are aimed to help students better prepare for the MTEs, and add some elective flexibility.

Discussion:

J.J.: Any communication with ENGT about the removed courses? Billy: Those courses had several prereqs, which have been an issue for completion. ENGT probably wants them removed, but there was no direct consultation for this proposal. Wayne: Allowing the students in without the prereqs was not ideal, so ENGT has no concerns - it amounts to about one student each year.

Vote: 15/0/0

AUC 70: Requesting credits be granted for either EXSS 1000 OR HON 1151

Sponsor: Danielle Wigmore

Motion to consider: J.J. Sylvia

Second: Will Cortezia

Danielle: An HON course was approved with the new PW Gen Ed designation last year, but the possibility remained that students could take both that course, and another PW course. This proposal prohibits that.

Discussion:

Heather: Does this need to be a retroactive change? Danielle: We don't want to penalize students who took both classes in the past - this is about cleaning things up moving forward.

Vote: 15/0/0

AUC 71: Requesting a name change, cross-list, course description update and Procedural and Logical Thinking PL-designation for GEOG3000- Geographic Economic Systems

Sponsor: Christa Marr

J.J. requests that this proposal not be reviewed today, since it was added to the agenda so late.

MOVED TO THE NEXT MEETING

AUC 72: BIOL 3XXX Virology

Sponsors: Elizabeth Kilpatrick and Sean Rollins

Motion to consider: Will Cortezia

Second: J.J. Sylvia

Liz K.: The department has been discussing this course for the last few years, and it became much more relevant recently. It has been offered twice as a topics course, and this proposal would put it in the catalog. It will be an elective option for the major, and has two prereqs, so would be open to any students who have the prereqs or instructor permission. Course looks at virus mechanisms, as well as infection response and antiviral approaches. Also considers biotechnology research applications.

Discussion:

J.J.: Looks like a great course - excited to see it added!

Vote: 14/0/0

AUC 74: Creation of CHEM 3XXX: Environmental Chemistry with an AIA designation

Sponsors: Sean Rollins and Emma Downs

Motion to consider: Will Cortezia

Second: J.J. Sylvia

Aisling (presenting for the sponsors): This course was created by Emma Downs, who is on sabbatical. The course is taken by Chemistry majors as an elective, and can also be taken by Chemistry minors. Has been successfully offered as a topics course twice. Emma or Aisling are prepared to teach it, and it deals with the chemistry of air, water, air pollution, water pollution, etc. It has two LAS prereqs, and AIA designation is requested for that reason. It may be of interest to students across campus, integrating basics of chemistry.

Discussion:

Liz G.: EGS department is planning to add this as an elective option, as well. Aisling: It actually overfilled once, which is unusual for a CHEM elective. Soumi: Gen Chem I and II are both prereqs - what about transfer students? Aisling: Students often transfer in those Gen Chem courses, and you would really need both of those to succeed in this new course. There are other more suitable courses for students without that foundational Gen Chem knowledge. Soumi: There is an interest with in ENGT in the area of sustainability, and this course could be good for that curriculum. ENGT already requires Gen Chem I - is there another course that would sub for Gen Chem II as a prereq? Aisling: No - students would need to take Gen Chem II in order to succeed in this course.

Vote: 15/0/0

AUC 75: Creation of ART 2XXX, Public Art, with FA and DP designations. (And LA&S: ART, AOM)

Sponsor: Sarah Bromberg

Motion to consider: Will Cortezia

Second: J.J. Sylvia

Sarah: This new course will focus on art available to the general public in open spaces, both urban and rural. Covers historical examples, as well as contemporary local, regional, and global examples. It is part of the Art area's efforts to have more community-focused course offerings.

Discussion:

J.J.: One part of the form requests FA, another requests HI. Sarah: The intent is to apply for FA and DP designations. J.J.: Friendly amendment to make that change (see below). The "assignments" box needs to be checked as well - second friendly amendment (see below). And, how are we handling the legacy LAS designation proposals here? Kisha: This indication on the new forms is the way we're grandfathering in the old designations. J.J.: Sarah, can you briefly justify the old LAS designation, since we don't have that form anymore? Sarah: The course is an Art course, so it fits the ART / AOM designation. Heather: Concerned about student resources - are you planning to require students to take trips? Sarah: In other courses, museum visits are required, but many options are provided. In this course, there will be a long list of options, accompanied by information about how to access each of these options. It is also possible for a student to propose other possibilities that might be more convenient for them. Soumi: When we say "public art," he envisions it as something made by people, to be viewed freely. How would you describe public art? Sarah: Public art is consciously created to be available for free, often

sponsored by public organizations, often outdoors, in spaces that are available to anyone. A historical example would be a cathedral facade, or library murals. Heather: Is this course accessible to students who are visually impaired? Sarah: In the past, students with visual impairments in Art courses have been held accountable for the elements that they can sense. Also, there are often artworks meant to be experienced by touch, or that incorporate sound. Soumi: Would architectural art fall under this umbrella of “public art”? Sarah: Because “History of Architecture” is a separate course, it won’t be a significant emphasis in this new course. Exterior sculpture and painting will be considered, but columns and pediments will not. Liz G.: Do we need to consider the new course, and then the Gen Ed designations? J.J.: In the past, we’ve handled it on a case-by-case basis. Aruna: Let’s handle it that way moving forward then, as well. Kisha: If you want to separate them, someone needs to make a motion to do so.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENTS:

Change Historical Inquiry and Analysis to Fine Arts Expression and Analysis (section 5A in Gen Ed form)

Select Assignments (section 12)

Vote: 13/0/2

Motion to continue until 5pm: J.J. Sylvia

Second: Danielle Wigmore

Vote: 15/0/0

AUC 73: CMGT 3XXX Ethics, Law, and Professional Practice

Sponsor: Wayne A. Whitfield

Motion to consider: Will Cortezia

Second: J.J. Sylvia

Wayne: The course has been taught for multiple years, and changes have now been made to bring the course into alignment with the ER designation.

Discussion:

Heather: Is this a new course? That is what the form indicates, but not what your presentation just described. Wayne: Yes, it’s new, but it’s directly replacing an old course. Heather: What is the difference? Wayne: This is a 3000 level, and the old one was 4000 level. Aruna: Do we want to separate consideration of the new course from consideration of the Gen Ed designation here?

Wayne: Without the ER designation, the new course is irrelevant. J.J.: The only thing related to ethics in the syllabus is that students are required to take and defend a position. Wayne: Ethical reasoning is not content, it is process. Reasoning applicable to ethics is very similar to reasoning applicable to the law, which is why law courses often receive this kind of designation. Aruna: Given this situation, it makes sense to put through a course title and description change, if the primary interest is in getting an ER designation on an existing course. There seem to be several procedural wrinkles here.

Motion to separate new course from Gen Ed designation: Liz Gordon
Second: Heather Urbanski

Discussion:

Aruna: Wayne, does it make sense to you to consider the course and then the designation?

Wayne: AUC Curriculum Committee made a recommendation last year that the existing course needed to change a lot in order to qualify for ER designation. This proposal modifies that existing course, including changing the name and the course level and removing prereqs, to bring it in line with existing courses at other institutions, and to qualify for ER designation. Without ER designation, we don't need a new course. Aruna: You could also remove that old course and have it replaced with the new course, whether or not it gets the ER designation. Wayne: The old course serves its purpose - without ER, we don't want a new course. Kisha: Do you just want ENGT students to take this course for ER, or other students outside your major? Wayne: We want students outside of the major to be able to take this course, too. Kisha: Then you have options - either modify the old course and come to get the ER designation, or create this new course and remove the old course. Meg: We're getting sidetracked - this course has been proposed, and we need to move forward with this proposal as written. If this process doesn't serve the department's ends, then a different process should be used.

Vote: 15/0/0

DISCUSSION OF NEW COURSE CREATION:

J.J.: In the course description, there are references to "the industry" and "the profession" - seems to imply insider status, rather than a course open to the entire campus community. Friendly amendment to clarify in course description (see below). Heather: In addition to that point, the course description already includes the ER Gen Ed designation. Aisling: Will an MAJ request be put through? Wayne: Yes, that is the core purpose of this proposal. Under the new Gen Ed, if we don't use several of our own courses, our students are at a great disadvantage. Yes, other students could benefit from this course, but this is primarily about the ENGT majors. J.J.: You can have a course that addresses ethics without the ER designation. What do you think about changing the course description to add clarity? Wayne: We want to get the ER designation, and will make any changes necessary. This is also a course that can invite in students across campus.

The core issue is that Reasoning is a process applicable across a variety of contexts - ethics is one of many. J.J.: The course capacity of 20 is justified by “class size appropriate to content” - can you expand on that? Wayne: We want engagement and discussion, so not a large lecture, but also not a small lab - capacity of 20 splits that difference. Kisha: We should address Aisling’s question - you do not need an ER designation for the entire campus in order to get MAJ for your own students. Wayne: We have two goals - invite in students from across the campus to an ENGT course that is less technically oriented, and allow our students to fulfill ER designation within their major program. We’ll make any changes necessary to accomplish those goals.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT:

add the word "construction" before “industry” in the course description

Vote on New Course Proposal: 15/0/0

DISCUSSION OF ER DESIGNATION:

J.J.: I teach the Comm Law and Ethics course, and have a Master’s in Philosophy, and there was significant discussion in previous ER designation conversations about the idea that ethics as content is a core part of the designation - not just the reasoning process. How does this course address ethics as content? Heather: This course seems to include argumentation, but not ethics. Will: Does anyone have a suggestion for what could be added, to help this course be what ENGT wants it to be? Heather: ENGL had an hour-long meeting with David Svolba about this issue, so making quick suggestions probably won’t be sufficient. Liz G.: Agreed with Heather - friendly amendments and cosmetic changes will not be the way to move forward. Aruna: We can vote on the ER designation motion, or we can entertain a motion to table the proposal. Liz G.: Knowledge of an ethical code is not the same as ethical reasoning, and working on legal issues in a profession is not the same as ethical reasoning. If our students only take one class on ethical reasoning at Fitchburg State, this course seems insufficient. Wayne: If we are unable to get ER designation, we will instead try an MAJ proposal.

Vote: 2/8/5

Motion to adjourn: Will Cortezia

Second: J.J. Sylvia

Vote: 15/0/0

Respectfully submitted by Jonathan Harvey