

AUC Curriculum Committee Draft Minutes

Tuesday April 19, 2022

Attendees: Adem Elveren (Economics, History, & Political Science)
Aruna Krishnamurthy (Co-Chair, English Studies)
Aisling O'Connor (Secretary, Biology/Chemistry)
Barbara Cormier (University Registrar)
Catherine Buell (Mathematics)
Cheryl Goldman (Psychological Science)
Christine Devine (Nursing)
Danielle Wigmore (Exercise & Sports Science)
Elizabeth Gordon (Secretary, Earth and Geographic Sciences)
Heather Urbanski (English Studies)
Jared Vanasse (Earth and Geographic Sciences)
J.J. Sylvia (Communications Media)
Jonathan Harvey (Secretary, Humanities)
Laurie Link (Education)
Lori Steckervetz (Library)
Meg Hoey (Dean of Health & Natural Sciences)
Sara Levine (Dean of Arts & Sciences)
Soumitra Basu (Co-Chair, Engineering Technology)
Nicholas Taylor (SGA Representative)

Absent: William Cortezia (Education), Steve Olson (SGA Senator)

Guests: Donald Tarallo, Franca Barricelli, Audrey Pereira, Michael Greenwood, Debbie Benes, Chrissy Devine, Zachary Miner, Mary Baker, Liz Kilpatrick, Charles Roberts, Kisha Tracy, Nelu Burcea, Paul Weizer, Randy Howe, Richard Wiebe, Rob Carr, Sean Rollins

1. Call to Order

Soumi called the meeting to order at 3:31

2. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes from the Curriculum Committee meeting of March 17, 2022: Adem Elveren, **Second:** Jonathan Harvey

Vote: 18/0/0 (For / Against / Abstain)

3. New Business – review of proposals

AUC67: Fitchburg State University 2021-2025 Academic Plan

Motion to consider: Adem Elveren

Second: Jonathan Harvey

Sponsor: Cathy Canney and Franca Barricelli

Franca: The Academic Plan articulates a vision starting from the Strategic Plan, which lays out the direction of the campus through 2025. Each division is tasked with developing a strategic plan of its own (committed to do in the NECHE self study, to be completed by May 2022), which began in June 2021. Using the University Strategic Plan, the Institutional Learning Priorities, and action plans from departments as a basis, the Academic Plan was drafted. There are four parts to the plan: curriculum and scholarship, student success, community, and structure and operations. The plan is broad but also helps to define parameters for departments to focus their energy by mapping to key performance indicators in the Strategic Plan. The Acad Plan was shared with the campus community at the beginning of AY22, feedback was collected via survey, email, as well as several open forums, which were conducted in each school, at departmental chair meetings, SGOCE meetings, and academic staff meetings. The Plan is now working its way through governance.

Discussion: Clarification about the role of the Academic Plan for departments and whether/how it can be used to request resources from the administration. Franca noted that the Academic Plan is a guide for departments to delineate pathways to move toward goals that they have set, and that resources will be allocated via, for example, the Academic Innovation Fund. Hard to answer without specifics, and not everything will be funded, but the Academic Plan is the document that allows Academic Affairs to communicate how we are advancing the strategic plan and resources go along with that. There was some discussion about assessment, and Franca noted that assessment is discussed in the Acad Plan as part of the work that AA does.

Vote: 19/0/0

AUC42: COMM 2200 Typeface Design course name change and repeat

Motion to consider: Adem Elveren

Second: Jonathan Harvey

Sponsor: Donald Tarallo

Donald: The proposal is to change the name of the course and allow students to be able to repeat the course one time for credit (first time, uppercase, second time, lowercase).

Discussion: It was pointed out that there is also a new prerequisite added to the course (#7 on the form). COMM3880 has been added as an option - now listed as COMM 3810 or COMM 3880 or permission of instructor. There was then discussion about how to track students who had already taken the course once. Since Donald is the only instructor, he would know which students had already taken

it, or students would have to self-identify. One recommendation was to create a new course specific for the lowercase version of the font, and cross list it so that students taking this a second time would simply register for a different course instead though they would run concurrently. It was noted that there is precedent for having students repeat the same course more than once for credit, e.g., the Psych practicum. Regarding questions about how a course appears on the transcript when taken more than once, it was noted that the course would appear twice on the transcript as electives. Several committee members noted their preference for creating a second course for the lowercase option.

Catherine Buell called the question.

Vote: 19/0/0

AUC 43: Remove Certificate in Business Program

Motion to consider: Adem Elveren

Second: Jonathan Harvey

Sponsors: Audrey Pereira and Michael Greenwood

Audrey: This is housekeeping, removing a certificate program that is no longer offered and does not appear in the catalog.

Vote: 19/0/0

AUC44: Remove Business Administration Finance Concentration (evening program)

Motion to consider: Adem Elveren

Second: Jonathan Harvey

Sponsor Audrey Pereira and Michael Greenwood

Audrey: More housekeeping, removing a certificate program that is no longer offered.

Vote: 19/0/0

AUC45: Change prerequisites for BSAD 2020 Introduction to Managerial Accounting

Motion to consider: Adem Elveren

Second: Jonathan Harvey

Sponsor Audrey Pereira and John Crawley

Audrey: The department reviewed course prereqs in the curriculum and the next few proposals are part of a streamlining process. In this case, a prereq is being added because students use Excel in this course so the added prereq will provide some computer experience to better prepare students for this course.

Discussion: It was noted that students already take these prereqs as part of their curriculum – this proposal would just shift when they have to take the prereq. It was requested that information from the affected departments be included in the proposal. Audrey stated that they've been sent to Kisha, so they will be shared with AUC.

Vote: 19/0/0

AUC46: Remove prerequisites for BSAD 2010 Introduction to Financial Reporting

Motion to consider: Adem Elveren

Second: Jonathan Harvey

Sponsor Audrey Pereira and John Crawley

Audrey: This is to remove all prereqs for BSAD 2010 since, according to the faculty who teach the course, students don't need the computer course prereq and don't need to be a sophomore to be successful in BSAD2010. Having the prereqs has placed barriers on course completion since this course is the first of a sequence. If they have to wait to take this course, the sequence then gets pushed back.

Discussion: Clarification that students don't need math before taking this course. Audrey explained that students still have to take math as part of their curriculum, but they don't need it to be successful in BSAD2010. Request for supporting documentation for affected departments - CSC3710 has BSAD2010 as one of its prerequisites, so should confirm with CSC that this change won't have an impact on CSC3710. Audrey stated that Mahadev supports the proposal, and provided the documentation to Kisha.

Vote: 17/1/1

Motion to continue meeting until 5pm: Adem Elveren

Second: Jonathan Harvey

Vote: 19/0/0

AUC47: Remove prerequisites for BSAD 1700 Introduction to Computer Information Systems for Business

Motion to consider: Adem Elveren

Second: Jonathan Harvey

Sponsor Audrey Pereira

Audrey: Proposal to remove the math readiness requirement for BSAD1700. Math readiness not necessary for this course, and because students are recommended to take BSAD1700 their first semester, the prereq can put them behind.

Discussion: Concern was raised that CSC3040 currently has BSAD1700 or CSC1400 listed as a prereq. With this change, BSAD1700 will now have a different prereq than CSC1400.

Vote: 17/1/1

AUC49: MAJ Requests for the Department of Nursing

Motion to consider: Adem Elveren

Second: Jonathan Harvey

Sponsor: Debbie Benes

Debbie: Requesting MAJ for three courses: NURS3710, an applied research course, for AIA; NURS4800, a practicum, for the IHIP designation; NURS4400, which covers history of health care and students actively engage in social justice issues at local, regional, state levels, for CV.

Discussion: It was pointed out that CV could be achieved in the Nursing curriculum without the MAJ so this one isn't needed. Debbie responded that it's an important course for the majors, students are out working in the community, and that experiential component is the reason for seeking CV. It will also allow consistency across both tracks.

Vote: 19/0/0

AUC50: MAJ Designation Requests for the Online RN to BS in Nursing tract.

Motion to consider: Adem Elveren

Second: Jonathan Harvey

Sponsor Debbie Benes

Debbie: Students in the RN to BS track already have an associate's degree so have satisfied their gen ed requirements. Requesting AIA for NURS3710, as in AUC49; CV for NURS4010, which is a similar course to NURS4400 but has a different name/number to distinguish the online modality; NURS4600 Capstone course for IHIP

Discussion: A question was raised about which outcome of the IHIP the capstone is addressing – how is an online course able to be regarded as an IHIP? Chrissy Devine responded that students are working with community partners or boards of health, schools, community centers, etc. Students are still engaged in the community even through the program itself is online.

Vote: 19/0/0

AUC48: SOC Content Clusters

Motion to consider: Adem Elveren

Second: Jonathan Harvey

Sponsor Zachary Miner

Zachary: The proposal updates the curriculum for the Sociology major, first by designating "Social Stratification" a required course, as well as creating content clusters, within each of which students select one course. This addresses a recommendation made by an external reviewer.

Discussion:

Friendly amendment to update the number of required credits listed from 39 to 42 (under item 7):
"The major requires 42 semester hours of course work"

Question regarding the frequency of offering and whether or not students will be able to complete their content clusters for graduation. Zachary responded that this will be possible with the planned course rotation.

19/0/0

AUC51: Designating SOC 1100 as a MAJ course for SOC

Motion to consider: Adem Elveren

Second: Jonathan Harvey

Sponsor Zachary Miner

Zachary: SOC100 already has CV designation. Requesting that it serve as MAJ for the Sociology major.

Discussion: none

Vote: 18/0/0

AUC52: Internship in Sociology

Motion to consider: Adem Elveren

Second: Jonathan Harvey

Sponsor: Zachary Miner

Zachary: This proposal creates a 9cr internship course, identical to the other internship courses that already exist except the number of credits.

Discussion: none

Vote: 18/0/0

Motion to adjourn: Adem Elveren

Second: Jonathan Harvey

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Elizabeth Gordon