**AUC Curriculum Committee Draft Minutes**

**Thursday, March 18, 2021**

**Google Meet Member Attendees:** Franca Barricelli, Linda Dupell, , Soumitra Basu (co-chair), Adam Elveran, Lisa Gim, Cheryl Goldman, Elizabeth Gordon, Margaret Hoey, Natasha Kurtonina, Laurie Link (co-chair), Tara Mariolis, Zach Miner, Aisling O’Connor (co-secretary), Sherry Packard, Audrey Pereira, Britton Snyder, Danielle Wigmore (co-secretary), Sara Wright

**Absent:** Samantha Bright (SGA Senator), Jonathan Harvey, Jerry Johnson (SGA Senator)

**Guests:** Keyvan Karbasioun, Michael Nosek, Christa Marr, John Sylvia, Kisha Tracy, Ozge Ozay, Sarah Levine, William Cortezia, Collin Syfert

**1. Call to Order**

Soumitra Basu called the meeting to order at 3:31 pm

**2. Approval of Minutes from Latest Meetings**

**Motion to approve the minutes from the Curriculum Committee Meeting of February 18, 2021:** Linda Dupell, **Second:** Adam Elveran

**Vote:** 17/0/0 (For / Against / Abstain)

**Motion to approve the minutes from the LA&S Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting of March 11, 2021:** Linda Dupell, **Second:** Adam Elveran

**Vote:** 17/0/0 (For / Against / Abstain)

**3. Current Business**

***3.1 AUC 34: Research Methods Options for Psychological Science Minor***

**Motion to consider AUC 34:** Linda Dupell, **Second:** Adam Elveran

**Sponsor:** Sara Levine

**Discussion:** Students taking the psychological science minor must take a research methods course (PSY 2110), which helps students to understand science research methodology and become better consumers of research. Currently, students who take a research methods course for their major and are taking the psychological science minor have been managed on a case-by-case basis and allowed to substitute their majors research methods course for PSY 2110, but must take another 3-credit PSY elective. This causes issues in DegreeWorks, so this proposal seeks to formalize this practice as follows: EXSS 2065, EPH 2010, NURS 3710, POLS 2400 can be substitution for PSY 2110 and the student must complete 3 additional credits in Psychological Science.

A committee member asked if other departments were consulted on this proposal. Sara indicated that departments were contacted to ask for syllabi for research courses in order to determine the substitution suitability. Sara added that this proposal would have no impact on other departments.

**Vote:** 17/0/1 (For / Against / Abstain)

***3.2 AUC 35: Minimum Grade Requirements for Psychological Science Internship***

**Motion to consider AUC 35:** Linda Dupell, **Second:** Adam Elveran

**Sponsor:** Sara Levine

**Discussion:** Currently, two courses (PSY2370: Psychology of Interpersonal Relationships and PSY2020: Professional Issues in Psychological Science) are pre-requisites for completing an internship. In these courses, students demonstrate skills required to be successful in internships. This proposal seeks a 2.5 grade minimum in these courses as this is a useful benchmark and demonstrates the responsibility level required for internship success.

A committee member asked if this 2.5 minimum requirement in certain courses in order to undertake an internship is common in other departments. Sara indicated that Human Services requires a 2.5 minimum in certain courses in order to progress to internship.

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

***3.3 AUC 36: Eliminate Middle School Programs***

**Motion to consider AUC 36:** Linda Dupell, **Second:** Adam Elveran

**Sponsor:** William Cortezia

**Discussion:** There have been several changes to teacher preparation programs and in many subjects e.g. History and English, licenses are now for grades 5-12. This proposal seeks to eliminate middle school programs as they are no longer required. All students seeking initial licensure in middle or secondary school will be completing a minor in Middle and Secondary Education (5-12) and complete the necessary licensure specific coursework.

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

***3.4 AUC 22: World Languages Speaking and Listening Requirement Request for 6 SPCH Courses***

**Motion to consider AUC 22:** Linda Dupell, **Second:** Adam Elveren

**Sponsor:** Collin Syfert

**Discussion:** This proposal requests the World Languages, Speaking and Listening (WS) LA&S designation for 6 SPCH courses.

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

***3.5 AUC 33: LAS Course Designation Request of PL for 2 ECON Courses***

**Motion to consider AUC 33:** Linda Dupell, **Second:** Adam Elveren

**Sponsor:** Christa Marr

**Discussion:** This proposal requests the Procedural and Logical Thinking (PL) LA&S designation for 2 introductory economics courses. Both courses are model based and students are required to create and explain different economic outcomes.

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

***3.6 AUC 38: Drop the Math Prerequisite-Corequisite for BIOL 1800 and BIOL 1900 (General Biology I and II)***

**Motion to consider AUC 38:** Linda Dupell, **Second:** Adam Elveren

**Sponsor:** Michael Nosek

**Discussion:** Request to remove the math prerequisite for General Biology I and II. The department reviewed the math required for course success and decided to remove math prerequisite as it was not deemed necessary.

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

***3.7 AUC 39: New Course-Rhetoric in Greece - with CL-AIA-IHIP Designation Request***

**Motion to consider AUC 39:** Linda Dupell, **Second:** Adam Elveren

**Sponsor:** J.J. Sylvia

**Discussion:** This is a study abroad course, which explores rhetoric’s origin and evolution in Greece. Students undertake role plays in ancient Greece, exploring the relationship between rhetoric and democracy. Students visit locations related to the course on a spring break trip. Students also learn how the past influences contemporary rhetorical and democratic practices and in doing so gain a knowledge of truth and understanding of the world, including the identification of fake news and post-truth.

Liz raised a concern regarding the 4000 Level requested, as this course has no prerequisites. J.J. indicated that this is artifact of Communications Media department. This is a phase 4 class (theory classes are all 4000 level). He said that this class is open to all students not just Communication Media majors. Liz thought that students from other depts may be scared off by the 4000 levels. Meg expressed the same concerns; 4000 level classes in other departments are usually taken by seniors and she thinks the course should be at the 2000 level. J.J. will bring this issue up with his department.

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

**Motion to consider AUC 39 for LA&S CL, AIA and IHIP Designations:** Linda Dupell, **Second:** Adam Elveren

**Discussion:** Civic Learning (CL) - This course explores truth and rhetoric’s evolution to the current day. Students react to the past, engage in role-play, read texts from the past and put it all together to build speeches. Critical thinking is required to pull these together, understand their assigned characters and develop strategies to earn the points they need for their historical faction to gain a victory in the role-play game.

Advanced Integrating and Applying LAS Learning (AIA) - This course combines rhetoric, philosophy and communication. Classroom learning will be integrated with study abroad experience in Greece.

Integrative High Impact Practice (IHIP)- This course has a study abroad component. Meg raised the concern that this class does not have any prerequisites and therefore sophomore could take this course. She felt that freshman and sophomore students may not be ready for AIA / IHIP courses. She also asked if an IHIP course must also be also have an AIA designation. Liz and JJ indicated that the LA&S subcommittee meeting discussed if AIA and IHIP go hand in hand. Kisha said an IHIP is automatically an AIA.

**Vote on LA&S CL, AIA and IHIP Designations for AUC 39:** 17/0/1 (For / Against / Abstain)

***3.8 AUC 40:******New Course-Data and Society-With CL and ER Designation Request***

**Motion to consider AUC 40:** Linda Dupell, **Second:** Adam Elveren

**Sponsor:** J.J. Sylvia

**Discussion:** J.J. started the discussion by declaring that this course will also be at the 4000 level, but he will bring up this issue with his department! This is a data in society class, looking at how data is used by society. It is not a computer science class, rather has a big picture theme on how data is used e.g. by government and big companies. The class extends to ethical challenges concerning data use, consent, and students undertake a project on how this applies to their area of study / major.

The hands-on project on big data visualization does not require a computer programming background, but computer skills are desirable. The programming language used, Tableau, does not require a programming background. Students will work on loading data into this program and learn beginning level computational thinking.

Natasha asked if a computational thinking course should be taken as a prerequisite to this new course. J.J. replied that he talked to the computer science department regarding this possibility, but was told there is lack of instructor coverage. Cheryl was also concerned about 4000 level of the course, especially if a freshman / sophomores is looking at taking it. J.J. reiterated that he is willing to talk to his department about this issue. Kisha will look into this issue also; it is the first time the Communications Media department has offered LA&S courses so the course level issue has not come up before. Soumi asked what the objectives of the course are. J.J. said that data is now impacting everything we do and even though we think students are digital natives, they don’t have background of how technology works and how data is used (which this course will give them!)

**Vote on new course request:** 18/0/0 (For / Against / Abstain)

**Motion to consider AUC 40 for LA&S CL and ER Designations:** Linda Dupell, **Second:** Adam Elveren

**Discussion:** Civic Learning (CL) – This course explores how government is using data for surveillance, monitoring and extending inequalities.This will better enable students to participate in civic activities and debates associated with data.

Ethical Reasoning (ER) – Students will explore the role of data in own lives; both personal and in their careers. They will develop their own ethic values surrounding data usage.

Liz reminded meeting participants of the friendly amendment added to this proposal by the LA&S subcommittee. Language needed to be added to support the digital literacy skills.

**Vote on LA&S CL and ER Designations for AUC 40 with LA&S Subcommittee Friendly Amendment:** 18/0/0 (For / Against / Abstain)

***3.9 AUC 41: New Course-Critical Making-With PL and AIA Designation Request***

**Motion to consider AUC 41:** Linda Dupell, **Second:** Adam Elveren

**Sponsor:** JJ Sylvia

**Discussion:** This course combines critical thinking with hands-on making e.g. new tools; microcontrollers, small circuit boards, 3-D printing and augmented reality. This may expand in the future to include other technologies such as a drone. The course has an iterative design focus and will focus on tools that can be applied to any area of study e.g. theatre students may explore the use of wearable devices in plays.

Soumi was concerned that there is a lot of overlap with engineering in this course and asked why is it not an engineering course and how does it relate to communication. J.J. agreed that there is overlap, but said there is body of literature in communication, which deals with critical making. Students will be required to read media studies literature and make connections that combine technologies and media studies. Natasha inquired about the lack of prerequisites for this course. JJ has frequently carried out similar projects in other classes and has not had issues. He is confident they can be successful in this class e.g. use Makey Makey (very easy to use). Students also have the option of using more sophisticated tools.

**Vote:** 17/1/0 (For / Against / Abstain)

**Motion to consider AUC 41 for LA&S PL and AIA Designation:** Linda Dupell, **Second:** Adam Elveren

**Discussion:** Procedural and Logical Thinking (PL) - Computational thinking is required in this course e.g. how to set up a 3D printer. The focus is on an iterative design process, which requires students to break a task into smaller parts and then develop sequential steps to achieve their goal. Design revision is emphasized.

Advanced Integrating and Applying LAS Learning (AIA) – In this course students will acquire a new type of knowledge which incorporates 2 ways of learning; critical thinking (abstract) with making (hands-on). This course is also interdisciplinary, combining engineering with media studies.

Meg stated that AUC 60 (2020) requires AIA courses to have LA&S prerequisites. Kisha replied that this was just one way a course can achieve an AIA designation; the other way is to incorporate integrative learning (which is what J.J. has done). In other words, there are 2 ways in which a course can achieve an AIA designation. Meg was concerned that we are adding AIA designations to courses which appear to be at the 2000 level. She was fine with the PL designation for this course. Franca mentioned that the LA&S subcommittee also discussed this. We are precedent setting; Franca thinks courses should be one or the other PL or AIA (not both). She said this is exactly the conversation we should be having as we are implementing LA&S. She asked what others thought.

Cheryl again brought up 4000 level of this course. When this course appears on transcripts it may send the wrong message to those looking at it.

Kisha was anxious to hear what the other members think of courses being given both Critical and Creative Thinking Outcomes (CCTAD) and AIA designations. There is no precedent indicating that a course cannot be given both designations. If we want this, we need to write a new proposal and put it through governance. This is important, not particularly to the current proposal, but to proposals already passed as well as future proposals. Danielle pointed out that the new LA&S curriculum was designed to have breadth and depth, CCTAD teaches students ways of thinking (first level, breadth) and AIA is depth. Foundational courses can meet AIA goals; course can be applied or integrative, they do not have to be both. In applying what they learn within a course, students can to do integrative work without taking prerequisite courses.

Sara brought up the matter of how courses can apply to different groups of students, e.g. Calculus I and II, are taken as freshman by math majors imparting CCTAD skills, but other departments are requesting AIA designations for these courses as they are taken much later by other majors.

Kisha reiterated that interpretation of AUC 60 (2020) indicates courses can get both CCTAD and AIA designations. Lisa pointed out that the numbering of courses not consistent across departments e.g. some LIT courses are at 4000 level because they are seminar type classes, but not necessarily more complicated than classes at lower levels; it is a quirk of system. She said that a 4000 level course is not incompatible with students taking it at an earlier time (than their senior year).

Danielle voiced the hesitation on AIA designation and asked if there was any appetite to split proposal since the PL designation had a lot of support. Michael said, in the past committees always did votes for designations separately i.e. there should be a vote for the PL designation and then a second vote for the AIA designation. J.J. indicated that he was happy to split the vote, but wanted to state that he tried hard to design this new course to meet both PL and AIA designations in the spirit of the new LA&S. Michael indicated that it was a technicality (not specific to this proposal); votes on granting LA&S designations should be done individually for this proposal and all future proposals.

Kisha again stated that we needed to decide what should be done going forward; do we want a course to be able to meet CCTAD and AIA designations? Kisha suggested a separate vote should be taken on PL and the AIA tabled. Liz was worried about proposals that have already been approved by governance, and have both CCTAD and AIA designations.

Michael thought the questions of courses meeting both CCTLD and AIA is a separate question to be dealt with by the LA&S subcommittee. Kisha indicated that a proposal would be needed to change the policy and we should not set a precedent with J.J.’s proposal. Liz and Lisa agreed and stated that there was much discussion about the current proposal at the LA&S subcommittee meeting and that this course does meet both PL and AIA criteria (as they currently stand). There is ample evidence of applied and integrated learning in this course and they thought it would be wrong not to put this course forward for votes on both PL and AIA designations (separate votes).

**Motion to Vote on AIA designation for AUC 41:** Linda Dupell**, Second:** Lisa Gim

**Vote on PL LA&S designation for AUC 41:** 18/0/0 (For / Against / Abstain)

**Vote on AIA LA&S designation for AUC 41:** 18/0/0 (For / Against / Abstain)

***3.10 AUC 42: New Course-Creative Coding-With PL Designation Request***

**Motion to consider AUC 42:** Linda Dupell, **Second:** Adam Elveren

**Sponsor:** J.J. Sylvia

**Discussion:** In this course creative coding is taught from a media studies perspective. The courses uses the p5. js language designed for people who work in media and education. The course will involve the use of introductory level coding to create media based projects. The point of the course is the outcome (product), not the coding itself. A committee member asked for confirmation that this class will be first offered in Fall 2023. J.J. stated that that was correct.

**Vote:** 17/0/0 (For / Against / Abstain)

**Motion to consider AUC 42 for PL LA&S Designation:** Linda Dupell, **Second:** Adam Elveren

This course involves computational thinking; students learn coding and use this and creative thinking in a media based project. The core concept of coding will guide students to see how things around them are designed.

**Vote:** 17/0/0 (For / Against / Abstain)

***3.11 AUC 43: Spanish Minor Revision***

**Motion to consider AUC 43:** Linda Dupell, **Second:** Adam Elveren

**Sponsor:** Keyvan Karbasioun

**Discussion:** Keyvan stated that the department forgot to ask for courses to be considered as electives in Spanish minor program when the courses were approved. The proposal updates the list of 3000 level+ courses that can count toward the Spanish minor. The proposal also allows for any 3000+ level SPAN course to count towards the minor.

**Vote:** 15/0/0 (For / Against / Abstain)

**4. Motion to Adjourn**

**Motion to adjourn at 5:18 pm**: Margaret Hoey, **Second:** Linda Dupell

**VOTE:** 15/0/0 (For / Against / Abstain)

**Minutes respectfully submitted by:** Aisling O’Connor