Minutes

CALS Curriculum Committee Meeting Tuesday, September 24, 2019, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. 253 Soils Hall

Voting Members Present: Balster, Goldman, Holden, Kucharik, Anderson, Courtenay

Student Member Absent: Mui

CALS Ex Officio: Ackerman-Yost, Barber

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Review meeting minutes from September 9 and 10, 2019 Balster 1:00-1:05pm

Item 1 approved by consent

ACTION ITEMS

PROGRAM CHANGE

1. Biology Jae-Hyuk Yu, 1:05:1:10pm Sarah Kuba, Kyle Webert

+Evolutionary Biology

+Plant Biology

Updating list of capstones to permanently include BOTANY/F&W ECOL/ZOOLOGY 460 and **ZOOLOGY/ENVIR ST 511**, which were listed as temporary approvals.

**Descriptive memos with rationales are attached to the proposal and in Box.

https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=38 https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=284 https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=998

Guests: Kuba, Webert, Xue (co-chair)

Background: The Biology major accepts several courses to fulfill capstone requirement. These two courses were provisionally accepted by the CALS Curriculum Committee a few years ago because it was not clear whether the courses met the criteria for a capstone.

The courses have both been revised since that time with the CALS capstone criteria in mind, and the department has provided detailed memos of how they believe these courses meet the criteria.

Other discussion: in the past, the Biology major only accepted courses with labs as a capstone. The Biology major accepts lab or research to meet capstone.

Motion to approve the two courses as permanent capstones for Biology: Balster/Courtenay

Vote: 7-0-0, accepted

NEW COURSES

2. **NUTR SCI 379** — Introduction to Epidemiology Holden 1:10-1:20pm

Effective Summer 2020

https://next-guide.wisc.edu/courseadmin/?key=12981

Motion to accept: Holden/Courtney

Discussion: this is a planned core course for the Global Health major currently being developed.

The proposal requires updating to ensure that there is sufficient detail, particularly for the activities and topics covered. There were a noticeable number of TBD's in the syllabus. The committee also had questions about the ambiguity around the "potential co-instructors" listed in the proposal.

The committee also discussed the projected number of students in the course, as it seemed small for the projected population in the major, and wanted more information about how the projection was determined and how the activities will work with the large population.

Vote: 0-7-0, rolled back to proposer for above changes

AAE 352 – Global Health: Economics, Natural Systems, Anderson 1:20-1:30pm and Policy
 Effective Summer 2020
 https://next-guide.wisc.edu/courseadmin/?key=13046

Motion to roll back: Anderson/Holden

Discussion: Course for new global health major. There is some overlap with two courses that haven't been taught for a number of years, but this proposed course is more focused on the economic aspects of global health.

Credit hour discussion: Four credit course with 1 discussion session; 3 weekly lectures; Needs to indicate that there are 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion explicitly

Outline of topics in syllabus - description sparse/overly broad given it's a four-credit course. Fourth learning objective doesn't appear to be in line with the content of the course.

Content in the course needs to be more specific in the syllabus; better alignment of objectives and assessment; even title of course is broad.

Vote: 7-0-0

4. SOC/C&E SOC/HISTORY/POLI SCI 259 – Forward? Courtenay 1:30-1:40pm

The Wisconsin Idea, Past and Present

Effective Summer 2020

https://next-guide.wisc.edu/courseadmin/?key=12100

Motion to approve: Courtney/Goldman

Discussion: Course provides students access to instructors with provocative ideas. The committee noted that the weekly readings are not current but recognized that this was an example syllabus and this outline for last year is well done. The committee noted that not all the learning objectives were assessable and that the syllabus did not have a diversity/inclusion section.

The committee noted that it had already been approved by the "home" college but wanted to provide friendly feedback that the one-credit grading does not add up to 100% and that the writing assignment isn't detailed.

Vote: 6-1-0, approved

NEW COURSES PREVIOUSLY REVIEWED BY COMMITTEE

5. AAE 335 – Introduction to Data Analysis using Spreadsheets Wattiaux 1:40-1:50pm Effective Summer 2020 https://next-guide.wisc.edu/courseadmin/?key=12792

Motion to approve pending clarification of 10-weeks: Wattiaux/Balster

Discussion: Improvement in better student/instructor engagement. Now student will post questions and student will answer questions. Rubrics on how posts will be graded; well thought out decent criteria. Unique from Excel training resources for general audiences; This course differs in emphasis on basic data analysis for economic topics.

Instructor will post weekly and students will post 5 times out of 10 weeks. Committee noted that patterns for students are important, and continued engagement in online is a best practice.

The Committee wanted clarification on why the course was being taught outside of a typical semester schedule, leading to unequal burden on students within a semester.

Vote: 7-0-0, accepted pending rationale of why the course is not using canonical semesters

INFORMATIONAL AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Topics Courses Balster 2:00-2:30pm https://kb.wisc.edu/vesta/24557

More information in Box

Discussion of the campus policy, which includes requiring courses that are part of a curriculum to have permanent course numbers; advising that Topics courses should be taught no more than three times in five year; and providing some information on when Topics courses are appropriate.

Discussion that list of topics courses include outdated information. The list represents all topics taught within the last five years, so some of that is historical data.

The committee felt that there might be a difference between graduate or undergraduate courses. There was also some discussion that topics may be being used inappropriately to indicate seminar courses, which could help clean up some of these courses that have been taught multiple times.

Topics courses are not eligible for certain funding resources.