

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

Minutes #10 approved (2010-2012 Undergraduate Catalog)

March 18, 2009

Members Present: Barry, Califf, Cook, Kaesberg, Lessoff, Lopez, Morenus, Palmer, Radhakrishnan, Rosenthal, Semonis, Standard, Trefzger

Members Absent: Dean, Murphy, Walker

Guests Present: Jess Ray, Registrar; Kevin Edwards, Biological Sciences

1. **CONVENED:** Morenus convened the meeting at 3:05 p.m.
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: #9, February 25, 2009.** Califf moved to approve the minutes, Cook seconded. The committee unanimously approved the minutes.
3. **PROPOSAL ACTION:**

BSC/CHE MAJOR IN BIOCHEMISTRY/MOLECULAR BIOLOGY (Revise) Semonis/Walker
BIOCHEMISTRY SEQUENCE (New)
MOLECULAR BIOLOGY SEQUENCE (New)

Califf moved to suspend the “discussion one week, action the next” rule and vote on the proposal today, Cook seconded and the committee voted unanimously to take action on the proposal. Semonis moved to approve the proposals for revision of the Major in Biochemistry/Molecular Biology to add the Biochemistry Sequence, Molecular Biology Sequence, and the title of General Sequence to the current requirements. The proposals will be forwarded to the Academic Senate for their review/approval. Catalog copy follows:

Biochemistry/Molecular Biology Program

Degrees Offered: B.S.

This Biochemistry/Molecular Biology Program (BMB) is cross-listed by the Departments of Chemistry and Biological Sciences.

HONORS IN BIOCHEMISTRY/MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

Students can receive BMB Honors with additional course work. Additional requirements include: (1) participation in the University Honors Program, (2) a cumulative grade point of 3.30, as well as a 3.50 average in Biochemistry/Molecular Biology, and (3) the courses: MAT 147, PHY 110 and 111, and CHE/BSC 299.**

MAJOR IN BIOCHEMISTRY/MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

General Sequence:

- **34 hours required in Chemistry, 19 hours in Biological Sciences and 1 hour in Biochemistry/Molecular Biology Seminar.**
- **Required courses: CHE 140, 141, 215, 230, 231, 232, 233, 315, 342, 343, 344, 360 or 370, 361; BSC 196, 197, 203, 219, 220, 350; BSC/CHE 310.**
- **1 year of calculus (MAT 145 and MAT 146) and 1 year of physics (PHY 108 and 109 or PHY 110 and 111) must be completed prior to enrolling in CHE 360, CHE 370, or CHE 361.**
- **The following courses are in the General Education program: BSC 196, 197; CHE 140; MAT 145; PHY 108, 110.**

Biochemistry Sequence:

- **34 hours required in Chemistry, 17 hours in Biological Sciences and 1 hour in Biochemistry/Molecular Biology Seminar.**
- **Required courses: CHE 140, 141, 215, 230, 231, 232, 233, 315, 342, 343, 344, 360 or 370, 361; BSC 196,**

- 197, 203, 219; BSC/CHE 310.
- 1 year of calculus (MAT 145 and MAT 146) and 1 year of physics (PHY 108 and 109 or PHY 110 and 111) must be completed prior to enrolling in CHE 370 or CHE 361.
- The following courses are in the General Education program: BSC 196, 197; CHE 140; MAT 145; PHY 108, 110.
- 3 hours of elective credit in BSC 200-level or greater is required.

Molecular Biology Sequence:

- 25 hours required in Chemistry, 23 hours in Biological Sciences, and 1 hour in Biochemistry/Molecular Biology Seminar.
- Required courses: CHE 140, 141, 215, 230, 231, 233, 342, 344; BSC 196, 197, 203, 219, 220, 260, 350; CHE/BSC 310.
- 1 year of calculus (MAT 145 and MAT 146) and 1 year of physics (PHY 108 and 109 or PHY 110 and 111) must be completed.
- The following courses are in the General Education program: BSC 196, 197; CHE 140; MAT 145; PHY 108, 110.
- 6 hours of elective credit in BSC or CHE at the 300-level is required.

4. PROPOSAL DISCUSSION:

BSC/CHE MAJOR IN BIOCHEMISTRY/MOLECULAR BIOLOGY (Revise) Semonis/Walker
BIOCHEMISTRY SEQUENCE (New)
MOLECULAR BIOLOGY SEQUENCE (New)

Kevin Edwards was present from School of Biological Sciences to answer any questions about the proposals. Semonis distributed a handout and presented a review of the proposal to revise the Major in Biochemistry-Molecular Biology and the proposals for the two new sequences:

- The Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (BMB) program is currently serving two subgroups of students in either Biochemistry or Molecular Biology.
- The Departments of Biological Sciences and Chemistry propose addition of two new sequences (in addition to the current BMB major) to provide degree options to better train students for graduate school and the workforce.
- The changes proposed serve the needs of the two subgroups and also allow for greater flexibility for the pre-professional students (those entering medical, dental, pharmacy school) requiring specific additional courses for admission into the programs.

Questions and comments:

- The assumption is that the “General Sequence,” as stated in the new catalog copy, is the old BMB Major, yet it reads as though it is a third sequence. Does this mean students can choose from three different options? The initiators answered: *We are not deleting the original program, and so it is referred to as “General Sequence.” It applies to any BMB student who did not commit to a sequence. It is anticipated that all students will pick a sequence, but there is no reason to delete the General BMB at this point in case someone does want to use it.*
- Under Biochemistry Sequence, should CHE 361 be mentioned since it is not required for this new sequence? *The reference to CHE 389.02 should be changed to CHE 361.*
- Are the Additional Electives (i.e. shaded sections) noted anywhere on the new catalog copy? Should they be, or is this unnecessary? Is a list of elective courses something that is needed to stay consistent with the rest of the catalog? Rosenthal mentioned that when there is not a list of elective courses shown in the catalog copy, the “system” has to list all the courses as electives that are not listed in the requirements. Edwards said they prefer not to use a list of elective courses and have students go through advisement.

Califf moved to suspend the “discussion one week, action the next” rule and vote on the proposal today, Cook seconded and the committee voted unanimously to take action on the proposal. (See “PROPOSAL ACTION” above.)

5. IDS MINOR REVIEW DISCUSSION:

IDS MINOR IN WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES

Standard/Lessoff

Beginning this year, each IDS Minor will undergo a program review every five years. Standard and Lessoff jointly reviewed the self-study completed by the Department of Women's and Gender Studies, the first of the IDS Minor self-studies that the University Curriculum Committee will be seeing. Standard distributed a handout to the committee and presented their review. Standard said that WGS did an exemplary job of providing materials. Communication is good between faculty and students and they have built a community around the IDS Minor in Women's and Gender Studies. Standard and Lessoff prepared a memo to the UCC with their comments and recommendations:

- The Women's and Gender Studies minor is one component of a broad set of activities overseen by the WGS program, directed by Professor Alison Bailey. In addition to a graduate certificate, the program sponsors a group called FLAME, organizes a student research symposium and other campus and community events, engages in services to students and the community, supervises internships, and more. The range of activities can be gauged from the website: www.womensandgenderstudies.ilstu.edu/.
- Students pursuing the WGS minor take a core of four courses (WGS 120, PHI 246, ENG 160, and HIS 261 or 262) and select three elective courses from a list of 34 possible offerings. The core courses are offered on a regular basis, and students are informed of the availability of the courses in a variety of ways (website, email, newsletter, and class announcements).
- Beyond its value to students, the minor acts as a focal point and community-building device for a broad-ranging group of faculty with interests in women's and gender issues. The program devotes an exemplary amount of effort – evident in the self-study – to recruiting core and affiliated faculty while setting guidelines for courses to support the program and its goals.
- The program publishes a useful booklet and pamphlet for students, as well as a newsletter geared toward the campus and another newsletter for program alumni.
- Consistent, strong enrollments (57 students have completed the minor from 2004 to present) attest to the dedication of the faculty running the program, as well as the usefulness and energy of the curriculum.
- The program has exemplary advising and advertising and uses exit interview forms to gather information on the goals and experiences of students. All interdisciplinary minors should be as strong as this one both substantively and in terms of value to the university's faculty and students.
- The reviewers have no important recommendations to offer, only a few suggestions, none of which are essential right now:
 - a. The program faculty undertook a thorough review of learning outcomes. Still, the learning goals may stress analytical and critical concepts and methods too much and knowledge about women and gender not enough. Women's and Gender studies is, after all, both a set of analytical and conceptual approaches and the knowledge generated by those approaches. Provision 3 on page 2 (of the self-study) more or less addresses the point but in a roundabout way. The committee suggests dividing that provision into two. One learning outcome should plainly stress knowledge about women and gender in society, the economy, history, politics, culture, the arts, etc. The second outcome could stress "participation in, contribution to, and transformation of," etc., as in the present statement.
 - b. The self-study discusses measures for communicating with students and alumni, for recruiting students, and for collecting information on student experiences. But the self-study, which focused on curricular and organizational improvements, says little specific about what the program has learned from these efforts about what drew students to the program, how the students have benefited from the program, and how the experience has affected them later on. Such information could be valuable to programs without the same level of coherence and capacity.
 - c. Recommendation 5 on page 8 alludes to the goal of moving the program toward departmental status, presumably offering a major as well as the current minor and graduate certificate and undergraduate general education courses. The basic idea seems workable, as there are many models of interdisciplinary programs such as this functioning effectively with a core department of two-three dedicated tenure lines, supported by affiliated faculty from other departments. This is not in the jurisdiction of the University Curriculum Committee, but should the move to departmental status materialize, the committee will be charged with reviewing the relevant curricular proposals. One of the main things the curriculum committee will be looking for is how clearly the Women's and Gender Studies Program has worked through the practical challenges related to such an expansion, which among other things involves securing written commitments to the necessary courses and seats from the various contributing departments.

- Califf suggested asking Women's and Gender Studies if they would make their review available as a model for other IDS Minor self-study program reviews.
 - Morenus asked if there was wording that the reviewers liked better for WGS to use for #3 learning outcomes?
 - Rosenthal will provide suggested wording about higher level learning in a more elemental way and send it to WGS.
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6. LIAISON REPORTS:

- a. **Council on General Education:** Morenus – Nothing to report.
- b. **Council for Teacher Education:** Palmer – Nothing to report.
- c. **Academic Affairs Committee:** Lessoff – The last meeting was cancelled. At future meetings they will be working on the mixed system for summer school budgeted courses and entrepreneurial courses.

7. STAFF REPORT:

- a. **Decimalized courses:** The committee was asked to consider whether there needs to be a policy on decimalization of topics courses. It is difficult to determine whether or not the departments/schools are using the decimalization of courses to offer a course that has the same objectives and student outcomes as the base course, or if the department is using the decimalization in place of proposing a new course or a temporary course. The main issue is that once the topics course has been approved, the added decimalization does not require a formal proposal and does not circulate. Therefore, other departments do not have the opportunity to proffer objections if a decimalized course overlaps one already being offered. Committee members from departments that have found the decimalizations of topics courses very beneficial defended the current utilization of this type of course offering. This may be a topic of further discussion at a later time.
- b. **Electronic Proposal Forms Update:** A few more corrections have been given to Rob Dwyer. After the changes have been completed, Ryburn will send Dr. Kimberly Nance an email to let her know the forms are ready for the Graduate School to review (for the 300-level dual credit courses). Hopefully, the forms will be completed and available for use before the end of April. The memo has been completed that is to go out to the Deans, DCC and CCC Chairs, Department Chairs and School Directors and is ready to be distributed when the forms go live.

8. INFORMATION: The University Curriculum Committee Executive Secretary approved the following:

Decimalized Courses:

KNR

189.33 CARDIO WEIGHT TRAINING

1 sem. hr.

Introduction to cardio and weight training exercise using steps and low weight barbells, designed to improve cardiovascular endurance and strength. May be repeated for credit once.

Editorial Changes (for 2010-2012 Undergraduate Catalog):

HSC

(prerequisite)

384 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS REGULATION

3 sem. hrs.

Overview of federal and state safety and environmental regulations dealing with hazardous materials in the workplace and community. Prerequisites: CHE 140; HSC 271.

9. ADJOURNED: Cook moved to adjourn the meeting, Semonis seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:18 p.m. The next UCC meeting will be announced when needed.