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Undergraduate Curriculum Council Minutes

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### 2008 September 24 - Undergraduate Curriculum Council Minutes

University Governance, East Tennessee State University

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**Undergraduate Curriculum Committee  
Minutes, September 24, 2008.**

The second meeting of the UCC for the fall semester of 2008 took place September 24 in the President's Conference Room, Dossett Hall.

**Agenda Items:**

**1. Call to order.**

The meeting was called to order by Marie Tedesco at 2:02pm with the following voting members present: Jill LeRoy-Frazier (Cross Disciplinary Studies); Mary Langenbrunner (Education); Theresa McGarry (Arts & Sciences/at-large); Suzanne Smith (Business & Technology); Kathy Campbell (Library); Keith Green (Arts & Sciences/at-large); Diana Mozen (Faculty Senate); Debbie Dotson (Clinical & Rehabilitative Sciences), Alison Deadman (Arts & Sciences/at-large).

The following ex-officio member attended: Marsh Grube (Academic Affairs)

The following guests attended: Jeff Knisley (Mathematics – representing Anant Godbole); Lev Yampolsky (Biological Sciences); Vida Hull (Art); Jay Franklin (Sociology/Anthropology); Richard Ignace (Physics & Astronomy); Shirley Cherry (Clinical and Rehabilitative Sciences).

**2. Approval of the minutes of September 10, 2008 meeting.**

Deadman reported that she had received one correction by email – Denise Gilly from the Registrar's office should be added to the list of ex-officio members in attendance. With no other corrections noted, Green proposed the minutes be approved with the above-mentioned correction. Seconded by Campbell, the minutes were approved unanimously.

**3. Actions by the chair on behalf of the committee.**

The chair reported that she had approved the following new courses on behalf of the committee (changes required by the committee having been made): PEXS 4657, Sport Nutrition and Ergogenic Aids; PEXS 4656, Sports Conditioning and Training; ANTH 4070, Practicing Anthropology.

The chair reported that she had approved the following non-substantive curriculum changes (the changes required by the committee having been made): PEXS and CUA1.

**4. New business: curriculum and course proposals to be considered for the first time**

**a. New course proposal: BIOL 2190/MATH 2190, Introduction to Computational Biology**

Dr. Yampolsky explained to the committee that this course is the result of a National Science Foundation-funded talent expansion program that focuses on the interface between mathematics and biology. The course has been offered as an *experimental*

*course* in the summers as a *bridge* program between high school and college. The goal of this course is to get students involved in research as soon as possible. The course proposal suggests a 2000-level designation for this class because it is also offered to transfer students from other institutions of higher education.

In discussing the proposal, the committee recommended that the rationale for the proposal be amended to reflect the description Yamplosky had just given (verbally). Minor modifications were suggested to both the course description and the transcript title. It was also suggested the Course Goals be revised to reflect the goals of the class rather than the topics to be covered. Minor modifications to the Learning Outcomes and Grade Assignment sections were put forward as was the suggestion that the Grading Scale might be rather too liberal.

A motion, proposed by Mozen and seconded by Green, that the course be accepted once the suggested modifications were made passed with one against and all others in favor.

**b. New course proposal: BIOL 2390/MATH 2390, Introduction to Research in Quantitative Biology.**

Yampolsky explained that this course was also a result of the National Science Foundation-funded talent expansion program. Designed to allow freshmen students to sample a range of research opportunities through laboratory rotations of 3-6 weeks duration, the ultimate goal of the course is to help students choose a laboratory in which to complete their thesis.

Discussion focused on revising the Course Description to reflect more clearly the nature of the class; changing the Primary Instruction Media; modifying the wording of Course Goals; making the Learning Outcomes measurable; revising the Major Assignments to eliminate material that does not relate to assignments; giving a weighting for each assignment in the Grade Assignments section; and using positive rather than negative wording where possible.

A motion to accept the proposal with the discussed changes, made by Mozen and seconded by Langenbrunner, passed unanimously.

At this point in the proceedings Grube showed those present web pages at [www.etsu.edu/chairshandbook](http://www.etsu.edu/chairshandbook) that gave detailed instructions for completing the forms that are part of the curriculum process system database, and for forms required by TBR for changes in curricula. She also pointed out that there was on this site a list of active verbs that were suitable for use in the Learning Outcomes sections of these forms.

**c. New course proposal: ANTH 3903, Prehistory of Southern Appalachia.**

Dr. Franklin gave a summary of his course proposal to the committee. The committee recommended minor changes in the Course Description, Rationale, Course Goals and Learning Outcomes. It was suggested extraneous information be eliminated from the Major Assignments and that the Grade Assignment be clarified.

Green proposed that the course be accepted with the modifications discussed. The motion was seconded by McGarry and passed unanimously.

**d. New course proposal: SOAA 4410, International Field Experience**

Franklin explained that this proposal comes out of an exchange agreement with the Université Blaise Pascal in Clermont-Ferrand. Students from each institution will have the opportunity to take part in summer field projects, undertaking the work abroad, but registering for credit with their home institution. The rationale of having this course listed with the SOAA rubric is that it could at some time be expanded to include anthropology.

Minor modifications in the Course Description were discussed and it was recommended that the Purpose be revised so that it really reflected the purpose of the course.

Green proposed a motion to accept the course with the discussed changes. Seconded by Mozen, the motion passed unanimously.

As Dr. Hull had not yet arrived, the published agenda was modified and her proposal (ARTH 4907/5907) was moved to the end of the agenda. The meeting proceeded to discuss:

**e. Non-substantive curriculum change, ALHE, BS Allied Health**

Ms. Cherry explained that this change involved one new course (RADT 3005) that would replace PUBH 2030 (First Aid and Emergency Care). The former was needed to provide students with an introduction to the discipline when they entered the program, while the latter (the main purpose of which had been to ensure all students had CPR certification) was largely redundant as most students already had the CPR certification or got it through other channels.

After brief discussion, Mozen proposed that curriculum change be accepted. The motion, seconded by Dotson, passed unanimously.

**f. New course proposal: RADT 3005, Foundations in Radiologic Technology**

Cherry explained that this course covers the foundation topics students need when they enter the program. Currently these topics have to be taught during clinical classes when they take time away from the material that should be being covered in these classes.

Committee discussion recommended minor modifications or clarifications to the Rationale, the Course Description, and the Course Goals. More in-depth modifications for clarity were requested for the Major Assignments to make them relate more readily to the Grade Assignment.

A motion, proposed by Green and seconded by Deadman, that the course be accepted with the modifications discussed passed unanimously.

**g. TBR proposal: Minor in Astronomy**

Dr. Ignace told the committee that ETSU has the largest astronomy faculty in the state of Tennessee with excellent facilities for the study of astronomy and several courses offered, but as yet no minor is available to students. The current proposal makes available a minor and uses courses already taught at ETSU so there would be no drain on faculty time/resources.

Committee discussion focused on small changes in the Outcomes and the implementation date. The Evaluation plans were discussed in depth and suggestions made for clarification and modification. Note was made of the excellent use of data in the Evidence of Demand and Need section.

Green proposed that the minor be approved with the discussed changes. The motions, seconded by Mozen, passed unanimously.

**h. New course proposal: ARTH 4907, Seminar in Art History.**

Dr. Hull introduced the proposal and the committee began to discuss it, but the meeting was running over its allocated time and it was clear that the proposal could not be given the attention it deserved so a motion was made to table it until the next meeting.

**5. Other Business**

There was no other business to discuss.

**6. Adjournment.**

A motion to adjourn, made by Mozen and seconded by Deadman, was unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned at 4:07 pm

Submitted by Alison P. Deadman