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2022 October 26 - Undergraduate Curriculum Council Minutes

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**Undergraduate Curriculum Council
Meeting Notes
October 26, 2022**

Members Present Rhonda Brodrick, Scott Contreras-Koterbay, T. Jason Davis, Mathew Desjardins, Cynthia Edwards, Tabitha Fair, William Flora, Julie Fox-Horton, Colin Glennon, Stacie Hill, Myra Jones, LeAnn Olson, Evelyn Roach, Jonathon Taylor, Jennifer Young

Members absent Julie Bowers (class conflict), Chelsie Dubay (illness), Colin Glennon (class conflict), Laurie Schroder (conference)

Guests Present Alan Holmes, Thomas Jones

The UCC meeting was called to order at 2 p.m. by Jason Davis. The meeting was conducted virtually using Zoom. Roll was taken by Rhonda Brodrick.

Old Business

Scott Contreras-Koterbay moved to approve the October 12, 2022 minutes. Jonathon Taylor seconded. The motion passed with one abstention.

New Business

Thomas Jones provided the background for the proposals to be vetted, a substantive curriculum revision incorporating 8 new courses. The Department of Biology has been working to rebuild their curriculums to meet student career interests more effectively. A survey of students identified two major career categories: Biomedical Sciences and Natural Resources. The proposed courses allow the department to restructure to strengthen the concentration in Biomedical Sciences and create a new concentration in Natural Resource Ecology. To build a new concentration in Natural Resource Ecology that would prepare students for employment or graduate study, faculty met with wildlife, hatchery, and forestry organizations as well representatives from the University of Tennessee graduate program in Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries.

New Course: BIOL 3200 Evolution and Ecology for Biomedical Sciences

Thomas Jones provided an overview of the proposed course which will support the Biomedical Sciences concentration by introducing basic concepts of evolution and ecology.

Prior to the meeting, Primary Reviewers Tabitha Fair and Jennifer Young contacted Thomas Jones to correct two minor typos. With permission of the originator, minor edits were completed prior to the meeting.

Confirmation from Primary Reviewers Tabitha Fair and Jennifer Young

- ✓ Course consistent with university goals
- ✓ Course adds value to the Department of Biology and the College of Arts & Sciences
- ✓ Course objectives are appropriate
- ✓ Learning outcomes are evaluated to be of appropriate rigor for a 3000-level course
- ✓ Course appropriate at 3000 level
- ✓ Credit hours appropriate at 4

Tabitha Fair motioned to approve the proposal as written. Jennifer Young seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

New Course: BIOL 3300 Evolution and Ecology for Natural Resources

Thomas Jones provided an overview of the proposed course which introduces the fundamentals of evolution and ecology and techniques used in the field for the Natural Resources Ecology concentration.

Prior to the meeting, Primary Reviewers Jennifer Young and Tabitha Fair found the proposal to be well-written with no areas of concern.

Confirmation from Primary Reviewers Jennifer Young and Tabitha Fair

- ✓ Course consistent with university goals
- ✓ Course adds value to the Department of Biology and the College of Arts & Sciences
- ✓ Course objectives are appropriate
- ✓ Learning outcomes are evaluated to be of appropriate rigor for a 3000-level course
- ✓ Course appropriate at 3000 level
- ✓ Credit hours appropriate at 4

Jennifer Young motioned to approve the proposal as written. Tabitha Fair seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

New Course: BIOL 3610 Parasite Diversity and Ecology

Thomas Jones provided an overview of the proposed course in biodiversity and ecology of parasites which will support both concentrations.

Prior to the meeting, Primary Reviewers Julie Bowers and LeAnn Olson contacted Thomas Jones to correct one spelling error. With permission of the originator, one minor edit was completed prior to the meeting.

Confirmation from Primary Reviewers Julie Bowers (by e-mail) and LeAnn Olson

- ✓ Course consistent with university goals
- ✓ Course adds value to the Department of Biology and the College of Arts & Sciences
- ✓ Course objectives are appropriate
- ✓ Learning outcomes are evaluated to be of appropriate rigor for a 3000-level course
- ✓ Course appropriate at 3000 level
- ✓ Credit hours appropriate at 4

LeAnn Olson motioned to approve the proposal as written. Jonathon Taylor seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

New Course: BIOL 4117 Field Ecology Methods and Analyses

Thomas Jones provided an overview of the proposed course which was developed in response to feedback from UT graduate faculty. This course supports the Natural Resource Ecology concentration by introducing students to methods and analyses used in forestry, wildlife, and fisheries.

Prior to the meeting, Primary Reviewers LeAnn Olson and Julie Bowers found the proposal to be well-written with no areas of concern.

Confirmation from Primary Reviewers LeAnn Olson and Julie Bowers (e-mail)

- ✓ Course consistent with university goals
- ✓ Course adds value to the Department of Biology and the College of Arts & Sciences
- ✓ Course objectives are appropriate
- ✓ Learning outcomes are evaluated to be of appropriate rigor for a 4000-level course
- ✓ Course appropriate at 4000 level
- ✓ Credit hours appropriate at 4

LeAnn Olson motioned to approve the proposal as written. Mathew Desjardins seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

New Course: BIOL 4227 Animal Evolution and Ecology

Thomas Jones provided an overview of the proposed course which will fill the advanced ecology requirement for the Natural Resource Ecology concentration. This concentration will have two tracks: Wildlife/Animal and Forestry/Plant Life.

Prior to the meeting, Primary Reviewers Jonathon Taylor and Julie Fox-Horton contacted Thomas Jones to clarify information related to the catalog description. With permission of the originator, a minor edit was completed prior to the meeting.

Confirmation from Primary Reviewers Jonathon Taylor and Julie Fox-Horton

- ✓ Course consistent with university goals
- ✓ Course adds value to the Department of Biology and the College of Arts & Sciences
- ✓ Course objectives are appropriate
- ✓ Learning outcomes are evaluated to be of appropriate rigor for a 4000-level course
- ✓ Course appropriate at 4000 level
- ✓ Credit hours appropriate at 4

Jonathon Taylor motioned to approve the proposal as written. Julie Fox-Horton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

New Course: BIOL 4600/HSCI 4600 Microbiomes

Thomas Jones provided an overview of the proposed course which will be team taught by faculty from the Departments of Biology and Health Sciences. The course will be required for the Biomedical Sciences concentration in Biology and an option for the Biomedical Sciences concentration in Health Sciences.

Prior to the meeting, Primary Reviewers Julie Fox-Horton and Jonathon Taylor contacted Thomas Jones to clarify information related to the grading scale and major assignments. With permission of the originator, minor edits were completed prior to the meeting.

Confirmation from Primary Reviewers Julie Fox-Horton and Jonathon Taylor

- ✓ Course consistent with university goals
- ✓ Course adds value to the Department of Biology and the College of Arts & Sciences
- ✓ Course objectives are appropriate
- ✓ Learning outcomes are evaluated to be of appropriate rigor for a 4000-level course

- ✓ Course appropriate at 4000 level
- ✓ Credit hours appropriate at 3

Julie Fox-Horton motioned to approve the proposal as written. Jonathon Taylor seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

New Course: CHEM 2030 Environmental Chemistry

Thomas Jones provided an overview of the proposed course which will be team taught by faculty from the Departments of Biology and Chemistry. This course explores the biological impact of chemicals on the environment and will be required for the Natural Resource Ecology concentration.

Prior to the meeting, Primary Reviewers Mathew Desjardins and Laurie Schroder contacted Thomas Jones to clarify information related to the course requirements and learning outcomes. No edits were made.

Confirmation from Primary Reviewers Mathew Desjardins and Laurie Schroder (e-mail)

- ✓ Course consistent with university goals
- ✓ Course adds value to the Department of Chemistry and the College of Arts & Sciences
- ✓ Course objectives are appropriate
- ✓ Learning outcomes are evaluated to be of appropriate rigor for a 2000-level course
- ✓ Course appropriate at 2000 level
- ✓ Credit hours appropriate at 3

Mathew Desjardins motioned to approve the proposal as written. LeAnn Olson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

New Course: CHEM 2031 Environmental Chemistry Lab

Thomas Jones provided an overview of the proposed lab to accompany CHEM 2030. The course introduces students to chemical assays used in the field; it will be required for the Natural Resources Ecology concentration, and it will appeal to students in Geosciences, Health Sciences, and Chemistry.

Prior to the meeting, Primary Reviewers Laurie Schroder and Scott Contreras-Koterbay found the proposal to be well-written with no areas of concern.

Confirmation from Primary Reviewers Laurie Schroder (e-mail) and Scott Contreras-Koterbay

- ✓ Course consistent with university goals
- ✓ Course adds value to the Department of Chemistry and the College of Arts & Sciences
- ✓ Course objectives are appropriate
- ✓ Learning outcomes are evaluated to be of appropriate rigor for a 2000-level course
- ✓ Course appropriate at 2000 level
- ✓ Credit hours appropriate at 1

Scott Contreras-Koterbay motioned to approve the proposal as written. Mathew Desjardins seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Revise Curriculum: Substantive – BS Biology

Thomas Jones provided an overview of the proposed curriculum revision which

- drops BIOL 4995 Capstone: Review of Biological Concepts,
- replaces BIOL 1130/1131 Biology for Science Majors III and Lab with BIOL 3200 Evolution and Ecology for Biomedical Sciences or BIOL 3300 Natural Resources Ecology and Evolution, and
- adds a concentration in Natural Resource Ecology

Prior to the meeting, Primary Reviewers Scott Contreras-Koterbay, Mathew Desjardins, and Jennifer Young contacted Thomas Jones to clarify information related to the current and proposed program of study and new course information. They also noted BIOL 4767 has a prerequisite course CHEM 2010 which is not included in the program of study. The originator explained the prerequisite requirement is CHEM 2010 or an equivalent; one of the new courses in the concentration would be considered an equivalent course.

Confirmation from Primary Reviewers Scott Contreras-Koterbay, Mathew Desjardins, and Jennifer Young

- ✓ Proposal consistent with university goals
- ✓ Proposal adds value to the Department of Biology, College of Arts & Sciences, and university
- ✓ Learning outcomes appropriate
- ✓ Courses appropriate

Mathew Desjardins motioned to approve the proposal as written. Scott Contreras-Koterbay seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Discussion:

Evelyn Roach posed a question to the committee: In majors that require a minor, can a student use uncommitted electives to satisfy the minor requirement? After discussion the consensus was this is not appropriate since there would be no means to ensure the courses were appropriate and/or leveled to meet standing requirements for a minor. Dr. Flora stated the issue is not well defined under current guidelines; he suggested council may want to consider adding to the current guidelines to provide clarity.

Jason Davis noted there are several proposals ready to be reviewed at the next meeting. He will send the meeting agenda on Monday, October 31. The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 9, at 2 pm. The 4th Wednesday in November falls on Thanksgiving break. If there are proposals ready for review, the committee will meet on Wednesday, November 30.

Jason Davis adjourned the meeting at 2:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda Brodrick, UCC Secretary

Approved 11/9/22