L&S Curriculum Committee Minutes

Meeting Date: February 28, 2023

Meeting Time: 1:00-2:30

Location: Bascom 52  
  
Members present: Scott Burkhardt, Alicia Cerezo, Kimbrin Cornelius, April Haynes, Melanie Jones, Elaine Klein, Christopher Lee, Jeremy Morris, Michael J. Pflieger, Sara Stephenson, Michael Swift, Monica Turner

**1. Program items** (1:00-1:20)

**a. New Named Option for Environmental Studies: Sustainable Systems** <https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=1409> (Main [program proposal](https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=85) )

Question: How much variation is necessary to justify creating and administering a named option? Link to current Named option policy: <https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1004>   
  
*In conversation, members noted the programs don’t seem substantially distinct. They wondered what the primary goals or reasons were for the proposed changes, including possibly allowing the certificate to be easily completed in combination with the major, being able to transcript “Sustainability”, or promoting sustainability in the curriculum. Depending on the goals, there could be other ways to achieve them. Members were also concerned that the named option and the major don’t share a common foundational core. Typical named option structures are either a specified pathway through the broader curriculum (where students choose from a subset available to the major), or they have a common core with narrow focus in more advanced work and electives. Members brainstormed other strategies that could potentially meet the program’s goals and needs, including the possibility of renaming the major to include “sustainability” or readjusting the major requirements and courses that can meet it to better accommodate students completing the Sustainability Certificate. This might let the major and students better leverage the existing certificate structure to meet the transcription needs.*

*Action: Table this item. EMK/KC will summarize the feedback and suggestions for Nelson, including an expectation that their courses meet formatting standards by the midcycle update.* Abstention: EMK. 

b. **Legal Studies** **major** creates a new requirement, <https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=105> Motion to approve to L&S APC: Motion approved unanimously.

**2. Courses (See Table)** (1:20-1:45)

a. Motion to approve minor changes, after updates to FRENCH 314 Learning Outcomes: Approved unanimously.

b. Motion to approve new courses, with the exception of ILS 367: Approved unanimously. .

c. Motion to approve LAS courses: Approved unanimously.

**3. Consent agenda**

**a. 2023-02-14 L&S CC Minutes.** [See Box](https://uwmadison.app.box.com/folder/169055056382).

**Journalism major**: credits increasing by 1 due to update in credits to course <https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=515>

**b. Certificate in the Health and Humanities**, adds an “Elective” requirement,  for students to reach the required number of credits t<https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=193>

**c. Social Work: Part Time MSW**, **Madison**, removal of three internal pathways, updating satisfactory progress criteria: <https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=835>

**d. French major.** Clarifies how students complete the 24 total credits. <https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=88>

**e. Prohibiting overlap:** Latin and Classics can no longer be completed with Classical Humanities undergraduate major:  Classics<https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=79>

Classical HumanitiesLatin<https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=104>

**f. Course discontinuations:** [BMI 546/STAT 546](https://next-guide.wisc.edu/courseadmin/?key=87207), [FRENCH 227](https://next-guide.wisc.edu/courseadmin/?key=4349), [MUSIC 303/CURRIC 303](https://next-guide.wisc.edu/courseadmin/?key=88534), [POLI SCI 266](https://next-guide.wisc.edu/courseadmin/?key=9046), [PSYCH 386](https://next-guide.wisc.edu/courseadmin/?key=86218), [SLAVIC 470](https://next-guide.wisc.edu/courseadmin/?key=86435)Consent agenda approved.

**4.** **Undergraduate Degree requirements: Discussion.**

Updates, and further conversation about [principles](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IzLS481pRUA86iGBAv2bEiIar-hOPqWu/view?usp=share_link) and feedback (links to [brief summary](https://uwmadison.app.box.com/file/1136167524360?s=y2l03pjnfuev6v7dbgp37wk28w762isi) and [full feedback](https://uwmadison.app.box.com/folder/194012047730))  
  
JM provided an overview and updates. Last meeting there was conversation about whether to go forward with the principles or revisit them with the feedback we have received so far. While some consensus was building to revisit the principles, no definitive next steps were determined by the end of the meeting. We have received additional feedback since that meeting about concerns, including the timeline. Since our last meeting, too,  EMK, KC and SM discussed with Dean Wilcots that we are seeing the originally proposed timeline is too aggressive, and he understands that we will not have a set of new proposed requirements this spring.

Members had discussion around several points:

* A clarification of the process was provided by EMK: No matter the outcome of this committee, any proposed changes to the degree requirements will be presented to campus stakeholders for feedback, and would need to be approved by the L&S Senate.
* Revising the undergraduate degree requirements is a very large initiative, and there are limits to what we can do during our meetings given that we must also attend to regular business.
* Part of what makes this work challenging is actively engaging departments, faculty, staff and stakeholders across many areas and disciplines to ensure they feel part of the process and represented.

Motion made [Haynes] and seconded [Lee] to create a subcommittee of democratically elected faculty, as well as staff (potentially also democratically elected, process TBD) as well as potentially appointed staff with related expertise, to address the Dean’s charge to the committee to develop new undergraduate degree requirements.  
  
Swift offered a friendly amendment to remove the specification that subcommittee faculty be democratically elected, which was not accepted.

Alternate motion made [Swift] and seconded [Jones] to create a subcommittee of faculty and staff to work on these issues, with details of how members are appointed to be further discussed.

Discussion ran past the meeting time end, no vote was taken on either motion. Discussion was focused on a subcommittee composition that would reflect the goals of having experience from our departments, expertise in the undergraduate curriculum, and completing a large and complex project. The expectation is that the motions and further discussion will occur during the next meeting.

EMK asked the committee to empower her and the chair for permission to talk to the Dean about convening a subcommittee of faculty and instructional staff, however it might be constituted, as long as it represents the breadth of study in the college, and includes people with expertise in administering college wide requirements. Others added that students and other stakeholders should contribute as well.

[Note: Cerezo left at about 2:20]

**Courses:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Type** | **Course Info** | **Description of Changes** |
| Change (Min.) | [ART HIST 227: The Modernist Revolution](https://next-guide.wisc.edu/courseadmin/?key=88598) | Updating title and description |
| Change (Min.) | [FRENCH 314/INTL BUS 314: Contemporary Issues in Business, Government, and NGOs](https://next-guide.wisc.edu/courseadmin/?key=84221) | Title change. *LO’s, esp 3,4,5 - unsure if these are outcomes or course activities. Approved contingent on revisions* |
| New | [ASIAN 360: Topics in Asian Literature](https://next-guide.wisc.edu/courseadmin/?key=89763) | New course, Literature, Intermediate |
| New | [COMP SCI 544: Introduction to Big Data Systems](https://next-guide.wisc.edu/courseadmin/?key=89822) | New course, Natural Science, Advanced |
| New | [HIST SCI 360: Health Inequalities in the Long 20th Century](https://next-guide.wisc.edu/courseadmin/?key=89851) | New course, Humanities or Social Science, Intermediate |
| New | [HISTORY 204: History Short Course](https://next-guide.wisc.edu/courseadmin/?key=89886) | New course, Intermediate |
| New | [ILS 367: Migration and the Migrant Experience in the Americas](https://next-guide.wisc.edu/courseadmin/?key=89885) | New course, Humanities, Intermediate *Tabled* |
| New | [MATH 444: Graphs and networks in data science](https://next-guide.wisc.edu/courseadmin/?key=89754) | New course, Natural Science, Advanced |
| New | [PHYSICS 361: Machine Learning in Physics](https://next-guide.wisc.edu/courseadmin/?key=89823) | New, Physical Sci, Advanced - updated syllabus |
| New | [SLAVIC 105: First Semester Ukrainian](https://next-guide.wisc.edu/courseadmin/?key=89880) | New, Elementary, FL1 |
| New | [SOC 618/C&E SOC 618: Social Network Analysis](https://next-guide.wisc.edu/courseadmin/?key=89339) | New, Social Science, Advanced |
| New | [SPANISH 222/CHICLA 222: Introduction to Latinx Cultures](https://next-guide.wisc.edu/courseadmin/?key=89853) | New, Humanities, Advanced |

**LAS courses**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Type** | **Course Info** | **Description of Changes** |
| LAS | [COUN PSY 200: LGBTQ+ People and Mental Health Equity](https://next-guide.wisc.edu/courseadmin/?key=89832) | New course, social science, elementary |
| LAS | [ENVIR ST 403: Special Topics in Environmental Studies](https://next-guide.wisc.edu/courseadmin/?key=89456) | New course, Intermediate LAS |