**Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee**

Approved Minutes

Friday, September 8th, 2023 9:00AM – 11:00AM

University 156

**Attendees:** Bitters, Chamberlain, Daly, Dugdale, Fredal, Hedgecoth, Hewitt, Hilty, Holroyd, Jenkins, Lee, Martin, Nagar, Neff, Ottesen, Pradhan, Staley, Steele, Vaessin, Vankeerbergen, Xiao, Wang

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approval of 05/05/2023 Minutes
	* Staley, Vaessin, **unanimously approved**
3. Informational Items
	* Updates to the Biology Major (J. Ottesen)
		+ Ottesen: The Biology major will allow students to utilize the option of the newly created CHEM 1206 and 1208 to satisfy the General Chemistry I requirement, which the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry considers equivalent to CHEM 1210. This change will apply to all three specializations of the Biology major. Additionally, for the BS and BA Pre-Health Professions specialization, students will have additional options within the required “pick four” category of electives. These new options align with the Biology program outcome requiring coverage of ecological principles and will allow the specialization to make ecology, as a topic, more visible to students.
	* Name change of one of the Music BS specializations from “Media and Enterprise” to “Creative Practice, Business, and Technology” (J. Ottesen)
		+ Ottesen: The School of Music has changed the name of one of the Music BS specializations, “Media and Enterprise” to “Creative Practice, Business, and Technology”, for clarity to their student population.
	* Update to BM Composition (J. Ottesen)
		+ Ottesen: The School of Music is updating the lesson designation within the BM Composition. The lesson designation is going from 3401.xx to 3403.xx, and there will be no credit hour change with this modification and will allow for better tracking of students within the School of Music.
	* Name change: “Physical Anthropology” becomes “Biological Anthropology”. This affects name of minor and subdisciplines within undergraduate majors (J. Ottesen)
		+ Ottesen: The Department of Anthropology is changing the name of its minor and subdiscipline within their majors from “Physical Anthropology” to “Biological Anthropology”. In 2021, the American Association of Physical Anthropologists officially changed its name to the American Association of Biological Anthropologists. This change updates their department to be in line with disciplinary standards.
	* List of approved Race, Ethnicity and Gender Diversity and Themes Courses on ASCCAO website (R. Steele)
		+ Steele: My office, ASC Curriculum and Assessment Services, would like to bring to the Committee’s attention that we have a list of courses of GEN Foundations: Race, Ethnicity and Gender Diversity and GEN Themes courses available on our website. This is a resource that was requested by the faculty of this Committee several years ago and is intended to be a resource for faculty and staff as they plan and develop their own department’s General Education offerings. However, we have recently been told that some units have been distributing this site to students when that is not the intended audience. While this site is certainly not private by any means, it does not contain information that would be useful to students as they plan their individual schedules, and we are asking you to please let your colleagues know that this site both exists and also that it is not meant for students. My staff have placed a disclaimer at the top of this webpage to make it clear to anyone looking at the site what its purpose is.
4. ASCC Annual Report & First-year Seminar Report (2022-2023) (R. Steele & T. Bitters)
	* Steele: I can deliver the ASCC annual report first. In the past year, this body has processed almost 700 courses, which is an increase of 141 from the year before. While we did process more courses than usual because the Themes Panel (now Subcommittee) had special dispensation to hold summer meetings, this increase in the number of courses processed cannot be solely attributed to those meetings. Ultimately, we had a very busy but productive year last year.
	* Bitters: I can speak to the First-year Seminar report. Last year’s numbers do show a slight downtick of both seminars and enrollments. However, based on feedback that we received from, especially, advisors, we believe this is due to the GEN Bookend Launch seminar being released to the general student population. The seminars we did host did especially well and we only ended up cancelling one, having 343 students across 23 seminars. I am looking forward to hopefully continuing this program next year.
	* Vaessin, Nagar, **unanimously approved**
5. Revision to the Bachelor of Science in Geographic Information Science & Revision to the Undergraduate Minor in Geographic Information Science (N. Xiao)
	* Letter for the Bachelor of Science in Geographic Information Science: The Social and Behavioral Sciences Panel reviewed and unanimously approved a proposal to revise the BS in Geographic Information Science. The three revisions are as follows: 1) a refocused scaffolding of required and electives courses, 2) the inclusion of courses to meet the new Embedded Literacies, and 3) the addition of one new course to address identified gaps within the current curriculum. The total credit hours remains the same (33 credit hours) and is newly scaffolding into the following areas: 1) five required core courses, 2) three intermediate GIS courses, chosen from a list of seven, 3) three elective courses. The electives are grouped into three areas: 1) spatial data analytics, 2) urban studies, and 3) sustainability. Students will be encouraged to focus their coursework within these areas but will not be required to do so. The Social and Behavioral Sciences Panel approved these revisions and advances the proposal to the full Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee with a motion to approve.
	* Letter for the Undergraduate Minor in Geographic Information Science: The Social and Behavioral Sciences Panel reviewed and approved a revision to the undergraduate minor in Geographic Information Science. The proposal has four revisions: 1) a reduction in the total number of credit hours, from 18 to 15, which brings the minor more in line with other minors within the College of Arts and Sciences, 2) the inclusion of GEOG 5101 to the list of electives, as it is a newly created course that was created to develop students’ moral compasses related to GIS work, 3) the reclassification of GEOG 4103 from a required course to an elective, which is being used to achieve the reduction in credit hours, and 4) removal of courses from the minor curriculum, as some have either been moved to the 6000-level or are related to specialty areas not at the core of GIS. The Social and Behavioral Sciences has approved these revisions and advances the proposal to the full Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee with a motion to approve.
	* Committee Member question: For the revision to the major, do you have a sense of which tracks will likely be the most popular?
		+ Xiao: Likely the data analytics track.
	* Committee Member question: For the major, are there many statistics courses that are prerequisites to the required courses?
		+ Xiao: I do not believe there is any statistics courses that are prerequisites to courses within the revised program. MATH 1116 or equivalent is a prerequisite for GEOG 4103.
	* Revision to BS in Geographic Information Science: Social and Behavioral Sciences Panel Letter, Staley, **approved** with **one abstention**
	* Revision to Undergraduate Minor in Geographic Information Science: Social and Behavioral Sciences Letter, Dugdale, **approved** with **one abstention**
6. Subcommittee Updates
	* Arts and Humanities 1
		+ ASC 6000 – approved
		+ Chinese 4409 – approved with contingency
		+ Dance 5505S – approved
		+ History 3245 – approved
		+ Music 6840 – approved
		+ Russian 4330 – approved with contingency
		+ Yiddish 5672 – approved
	* Arts and Humanities 2
		+ Comparative Studies 3130H – approved
		+ History 3480 – approved
		+ History of Art 3010 – approved with contingency
		+ Jewish Studies 3480 – approved
		+ Philosophy 2344 – approved with contingency
		+ Music 3315 – approved with contingency
		+ Theatre 3130H – approved
	* Natural and Mathematical Sciences
		+ Chemistry 1206 – approved with contingency
		+ Chemistry 1208 – approved with contingency
		+ Chemistry 3301 – approved with contingency
		+ EEOB 3495 – approved
	* Social and Behavioral Sciences
		+ Political Science 2145 – approved
	* Race, Ethnicity, and Gender Diversity
		+ Italian 2057 – approved with contingency
	* Themes 1
		+ Anthropology 3306 – approved
		+ Earth Sciences 2205 – approved
		+ EEOB 2250 – approved with contingency
		+ History 3260 – approved
		+ Linguistics 3603 – approved
		+ Philosophy 3210.02 – approved with contingency
		+ Sociology 4629 – approved
		+ Slavic 2365.99 – approved with contingency
		+ Turkish 3797 – approved
	* Themes 2
		+ AAAS 3110 – approved
		+ Classics 3210 – approved
		+ Classics 3302 – approved with contingency
		+ Earth Sciences 2210 – approved
7. Conversation about religious accommodation language on operational syllabi and ASC syllabus template
	* Martin: As I am sure everyone is now aware, the provost issued a statement that, due to a change in Ohio law, all syllabi at the university must now include language surrounding providing religious accommodations to students within our classrooms. They have released the language that they would like units and faculty to utilize, which was provided in the e-mail update the Provost sent out.
	* Committee member comment: I do not believe that this meets the requirements of the language that was adopted in the Ohio Revised Code. For example, the law states that we should have a contact person, yet the university’s statement lists an office. Additionally, there is meant to be a list on the university’s website of common major religious holidays, but that is also not ready.
		+ Martin: That is all true. I am assuming we can expect updates to this language as the university develops the new, required resources.
	* Committee Member question: Operationally, when reviewing syllabi at the various subcommittees, do we now consider this language to be required, and therefore, must it be made a contingency? Does this mean that we functionally are going to have to return every course that we view for the foreseeable future? What if the Office of Academic Affairs updates the language?
		+ Committee Member comment: My recommendation is that we allow the staff in the ASC Curriculum and Assessment Services office to handle this contingency, as we decided last year to allow them to review contingencies that are administrative in nature. This, to me, seems to fall squarely within that category. It also is a very easy contingency on behalf of the units and should not take very long and is not a big ask of our colleagues.
		+ Committee Member comment: I agree, I do not think this will be a huge ask of our colleagues and the staff in Curriculum and Assessment should be able to push these through quite quickly.
	* Committee Member question: I find this policy problematic, especially the part where students must communicate these observances to their instructors within 14 days. It is not uncommon for people to not know when a holiday is going to fall until closer to the date. Additionally, has this policy been communicated to the undergraduate student population?
		+ Wang: As the undergraduate student representative, I can say this is the first time I am hearing of this change in policy.
	* After holding a robust discussion, the following motion was proposed and passed unanimously by the full Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee regarding adopting the religious accommodation statement as a required syllabus statement: The religious accommodation statement shall be a required statement on all syllabi within the College of Arts and Sciences. The Subcommittees will utilize the most up-to-date language that is provided at the time of their meetings, and the office of Curriculum and Assessment will update the statement as they receive updates from the Office of Academic Affairs. When the statement is updated, it will be communicated with the full Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee, but it will not require a vote to be adopted.
	* Vaessin, Hewitt, **unanimously approved**