**ASCC Natural and Mathematical Sciences Subcommittee**

Approved Minutes

Thursday, October 26th, 2023 9:00AM – 10:30AM

CarmenZoom

**Attendees**: Barker, Cole, Dinan, Hamilton, Hilty, Lee, Neff, Ottesen, Vankeerbergen

**Agenda**

1. Approval of 10-9-23 minutes
   1. Cole, Ottesen; unanimously approved.
2. Revision Statistics PhD
   1. **Contingency**: The Subcommittee asks that the department retitle the MS exam, perhaps describing it as an exam similar in nature to an MS exam without using that title, so that the Graduate School’s master’s examination rules do not prevent the department from enacting the exam as spelled out in the proposal. See section 6.2 of the Graduate School handbook <https://gradsch.osu.edu/all/graduate-school-handbook-gsh#section6.2>.
   2. **Contingency**: The Subcommittee asks that the department submit a request in curriculum.osu.edu to withdraw the course STAT 7303, as this course is no longer offered per the new requirements for the program and currently there are two courses on the books (STAT 7303 and 7302) with the same title. [Proposal pg. 4]
   3. *Recommendation*: The Subcommittee recommends referring to freshman and sophomore status as 1st and 2nd year. [Proposal pgs. 5-6]
   4. *Recommendation*: The Subcommittee recommends that the department reach out to the Graduate School concerning the policies surrounding the scheduling of placement exams prior to the start of the semester/student arrival and how this might impact students (e.g., finances, living arrangements, visa status). In the scenario that the exam cannot be scheduled prior to the start of the semester, the Subcommittee notes that the exam can likely be done in the first two days of the semester without impeding students’ course enrollment. [Proposal pgs. 5-6]
   5. *Recommendation*: The Subcommittee recommends that the department include the timing of the exams (e.g., 2nd year spring semester or following year 2) on the sample tracks in the proposal. [Proposal pgs. 8-9]
   6. Ottesen, Cole; approved with one abstention, *three recommendations* and **two contingencies**.
3. Revision Statistics MS
   1. The Subcommittee asks the department to verify the wording in the proposal regarding the MS non-thesis as a steppingstone to the PhD program. The current wording gives the impression that the department is excluding MS thesis students from the PhD. If the department does not mean to imply this, the Subcommittee advises them to open the statement up by saying that the MS program can be a steppingstone to the PhD or to include the means by which MS thesis students can qualify for the program (if the requirements for them are meant to be different from the non-thesis students). [Proposal pg. 6]
   2. The Subcommittee would like the department to describe how, if at all, they are working with the Graduate School to address the conflict of the timing of the MS exam and student enrollment requirements given that Spring semester ends in April and the exam is in May.
   3. The Subcommittee is concerned that the exam is not in concurrence with the Graduate School’s definition of a master’s exam and asks if the Graduate School has approved the details of the MS exam for the department. See section 6.2 of the Graduate School handbook <https://gradsch.osu.edu/all/graduate-school-handbook-gsh#section6.2>.
   4. The Subcommittee declined to vote on the proposal at this time.
4. Revision Biostatistics PhD
   1. **Contingency**: The Subcommittee asks that the department include courses PUBHEPI 6410 and 6010 in the sample program since they are required courses for the program. The Subcommittee notes that this was likely a simple oversight, but it makes the sample program look incomplete.
   2. Otteson, Cole; approved with one abstention and **one contingency**.
5. Biology 2750 (new course requesting GEN Theme Lived Environments)
   1. Tabled.