

Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee

Approved Minutes

Friday, March 21st, 2025

9:00AM – 11:00AM

University 156

Attendees: Bitters, Cole, Cravens-Brown, Dugdale, Dwyer, Fletcher, Gupta, Hedgecoth, Jenkins, Lee, Nagar, Nathanson, Neff, Ottesen, Smith, Steele, Vankeerbergen, Wang, Xiao

1. Approval of minutes
 - Cravens-Brown, Hedgecoth; approved with one abstention.
2. New Quantum Information Science and Engineering MS and PhD (Guest: J. Gupta)
 - Natural and Mathematical Sciences Subcommittee Letter of Motion: On Wednesday, March 5, 2025, the Natural and Mathematical Sciences Subcommittee reviewed new program and course requests for the Interdisciplinary graduate program for MS and PhD degrees in Quantum Information Science and Engineering (QISE) along with new courses: QISE 7100, 7101, 7102, 7111, 7112, & 7113. The launch phase of this program (through academic year 2028- 2029) will be supported by a National Science Foundation National Research Traineeship (NRT) award, which will directly fund 25 trainees with first-year fellowships, including approximately 7-10 MS students and 15-18 PhD students. The QuGIP curriculum is structured to prepare and facilitate transition of QuGIP students into research groups, including externally funded research assistantship positions with a primary faculty advisor after the first year. The NMS Subcommittee voted unanimously to approve the request with four minor contingencies, which have since been addressed. The QISE proposal is now advanced to the ASCC with a motion to approve.
 - Committee member question: Are there any plans to develop a graduate specialization in this area for PhD students in other programs, so they would not need to complete the full degree?
 - Gupta: We do not have immediate plans for a specialization. However, this program is designed to attract students with undergraduate training in various disciplines, and the courses will be open to all graduate students. So, adding a specialization down the line would be relatively easy to implement if there is demand.
 - Committee member question: What is the long-term plan for supporting students after the initial fellowships, particularly with faculty RA or TA positions?
 - Gupta: The key challenge for this type of program is that we cannot fully rely on GTA lines. That is why we will take a targeted approach to admissions. We will admit students who have a clear path and have one or two advisors picked out to facilitate a transition to research. We will work closely with these advisors to confirm they have the necessary funding. In some departments, we have already secured TA lines. For example,

students admitted to the program could collaborate with Math faculty, where two to three GTA lines are already allocated. In departments like Chemistry, and to a lesser extent Physics, it should be relatively straightforward to secure at least one GTA line for continued support.

- Committee member question: Have you confirmed the National Science Foundation's commitment?
 - Gupta: Yes, the funds have been awarded up front for the five-year program.
 - Vankeerbergen: Has a final decision been made on which departments will offer the proposed new courses for the program? Or is there an agreement with OAA to create a new course listing, "QISE," for these courses? While the courses have been approved on the basis of syllabi, they have not been officially submitted yet and will not appear in the catalog until they are.
 - Gupta: We would prefer to create a new course listing and have the courses listed as QISE. This is complicated because we want to make sure that the faculty who teach these courses get credit in the usual process. My preference is to list these as QISE courses and include buyout for teaching to facilitate faculty to consistently teach the courses. We have funds in the NRT grant for teaching buyout, so this should not be a problem during the launch phase.
 - Committee member comment: This could be politically challenging, so I encourage you to have those conversations with the departments right away.
 - Natural and Mathematical Sciences Subcommittee Letter of Motion, Lee; unanimously approved.
3. Revision to the Minor in Psychology (Guest: L. Cravens-Brown)
- Social and Behavioral Sciences Subcommittee Letter of Motion: On January 13, 2025, the Social and Behavioral Sciences Subcommittee reviewed a request from the Department of Psychology to approve a change to an existing minor in psychology, to be effective in Autumn 2025. This minor (currently called "General Psychology Minor") will be retitled as "Psychology Minor" and will become the only minor available in Psychology. The other six minors that currently exist in the department will be phased out by Spring 2028. The proposed revised Psychology Minor will remove the requirement of Psychology 2220, remove a core area requirement, remove an advanced course requirement, and add a course level requirement. The revised minor will require 15 credit hours, a prerequisite of Psychology 1100, core course Psychology 2300, and 12 additional credit hours of psychology courses at the 2000-level or higher (with at least six of those hours at the 3000-level or higher). The SBS Subcommittee voted unanimously to approve this request with three contingencies. Those contingencies have been addressed, and the proposal is now advanced to the ASCC with a motion to approve.

- Cravens-Brown: Over time, we have found that students are eager to engage with Psychology but do not necessarily want to pursue graduate school in the field. The current requirement of Psychology 2220 [Data Analysis in Psychology], which also has a math prerequisite, has been a barrier for many students. We have received feedback from several students who would love to pursue a minor in Psychology but are deterred by the extra prerequisite and do not find it particularly helpful for their goals. By removing this prerequisite from the minor, we can open up the discipline to more students and give them the opportunity to engage with it in a broader way. Eliminating core requirements will also allow students to better align their minor with their career aspirations.
 - Committee member question: Will there still be tracks within the minor?
 - Cravens-Brown: We are developing a set of pathways for students to specialize based on their professional interests. We will recommend specific courses that complement their goals and even their major. Given that we are a large department, there are actually many more than just six tracks. While most students will primarily choose course work that replicates the current General Psychology minor, we will provide handouts with information about potential tracks to help guide their decisions.
 - Social and Behavioral Sciences Subcommittee Letter of Motion, Dwyer; approved with one abstention.
4. Informational Item: Revision to the Professional Writing Minor (I. Nagar)
- Nagar: The Department of English is revising the Minor in Professional Writing to make the minor more accessible to students across the university. Previously, students were required to complete at least 3 credit hours from Group A of courses and at least 3 credit hours from Group B of courses, for a total of 9 credit hours across both groups. To improve the reach of the minor, the Department is implementing the following changes:
 - Allowing any additional course from Group A to count for the Group B elective list.
 - Adding English 2367.01, .02, .04, .06, and .08 to the Group B elective list.
 - Adding English 3000 – Writing for Social Change – to the Group B elective list.
 - Adding Engineering 2301 – Exploring Citizenship in Engineering: Integrative Designation – to the Group B elective list.
5. Subcommittee Reports
- Arts and Humanities Subcommittee I
 - ASCC 1137.xx – Brewer – approved
 - ASCC 1137.xx – Lindo – approved with contingency
 - ASCC 1137.xx – Turk – approved with contingency
 - ASCC 1138.xx – Suer – approved
 - History 2003 – approved
 - History 3025 – approved
 - Linguistics 3804 – approved

- Arts and Humanities Subcommittee II
 - AAAS 3084 – approved
 - ASCC 1137.xx – Kunapulli – approved with contingency
 - History 3084 – approved
 - History 3190 – approved
 - Russian 3360 – approved
 - Russian 5250.05 – approved
 - WGSS 3084 – approved
- Natural and Mathematical Sciences Subcommittee
 - Food Science and Technology 1200 – approved
 - Microbiology 5130 – approved
- Race, Ethnicity, and Gender Diversity Subcommittee
 - N/A
- Social and Behavioral Sciences Subcommittee
 - Anthropology 3211 – approved
 - Atmospheric Sciences 5401 – approved with contingency
 - Atmospheric Sciences 5502 – approved with contingency
 - Sociology 2111 – approved
- Themes Subcommittee I
 - Anatomy 2150 – approved
 - ESPHE 4245 – approved
 - History 2231 – approved with contingency
 - History 3030 – approved with contingency
 - Islamic Studies 3501 – approved with contingency
 - Russian 3360 – approved with contingency
 - Theatre 4500 – approved
- Themes Subcommittee II
 - ASC 3120 – approved
 - History 3216 – approved with contingency
 - Political Science 3620 – approved with contingency
 - Public Health: Environmental Health Sciences 4325 – approved