

From: [James Fredal](#)
To: [Vankeerbergen, Bernadette](#)
Subject: Fwd: Public Affairs Journalism Major
Date: Saturday, January 23, 2010 2:52:14 PM

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From: **James Fredal** <james.fredal@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Jan 19, 2010 at 3:04 PM
Subject: Public Affairs Journalism Major
To: nathanson.7@osu.edu

Dr. Nathanson:

The Sciences Subcommittee of the Committee on Curriculum and Instruction met last week to discuss the proposed revisions to the Public Affairs Journalism major. I'm pleased to report that the proposal was unanimously approved, albeit with a few suggestions. These are not contingencies, so you don't need to respond to them for full approval, but they were questions that arose during the meeting that I thought I would pass along.

1) The course title changes (esp., for example, Comm 422: News Media Presentation) does not seem to fit the syllabus as well as the old title did. A few committee members suggested that the new course did not represent a change in content, only a change in title, and that this left the new title somewhat less descriptive of the course contents than the old title. Similar concerns were expressed for other title changes.

2) The committee expressed strong support for surveying alumni as a part of the overall assessment plan, as it seemed to provide important and relevant information about the value of the major in meeting its professional goals. On the other hand, all the assessment measures were indirect (querying students about their work) rather than direct (examination of student work itself), and didn't seem closely tied to the goals and expected learning outcomes. The direct assessment of portfolios or of student assignments (papers, tests, etc) in light of expected learning outcomes might complement indirect measures of student and alumni satisfaction.

3) The "Life Sciences" minor is no longer being offered by Arts and Sciences and should be removed from the "current" column. On the other hand, "Capital Program" is a current minor being offered that should be added to the list.

Thank you.

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