

Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes
October 16, 2018
CNS 9

Attendees: Sergio Adrada Rafael, Rachelle Brunn-Bevel, Carol Ann Davis, Olivia Harriott, Ryan Drake, Martin Nguyen (Chair), Glenn Sauer (Associate Dean)

Call to Order

1. Approval of Minutes for September 18, 2018 meeting

Motion: Drake moves to approve; Adrada Rafael seconds

Comments:

Correct the spelling of Rachelle Brunn-Bevel's first name listed under attendees

Vote: 5 in favor; 1 abstention; motion passes

2. Chair's Announcements

RS 299 Special Topics: Martin Luther King, Jr., Religion, and the Civil Rights Movement was approved to be taught in the spring.

Nguyen informed the Committee that he will be away and unable to chair the next two meetings. Drake agreed to direct the November and December meetings; Nguyen will set the agendas, handle paperwork and organize the meetings.

3. New Course Proposals (All Graduate Courses)

Nguyen stated every item on the agenda was related to the Master's in Applied Data Analytics (passed through the School of Engineering last year). He noted there were concentrations with other departments in the College of Arts and Sciences.

The Committee will be discussing new course proposals - graduate level courses meant to support the master's program. There are also concentrations in each of the departments; they are collaborating with the School of Engineering. The language of these concentrations was included in the original proposal for the master's program, but the specific concentrations were not actually there at the time as all the pieces needed to be put into order. Additionally, there is a five year accelerator program which also needs to be considered. The Dean's Office had some concerns, but the Dean seemed to think that conversation had gone well. What we have now is a reflection of that modification.

The Committee noted as these are master level courses, they will be reviewed by the Dean's office next and then on to the EPC.

SO 461 American Class Structure

Motion: Drake moves to approve; Harriott seconds

- Brunn-Bevel stated this course will run at the same time as the undergraduate version of the course. They will be in the room together.
 - This will assure that it will run, as there will be enough students enrolled.
 - Graduate students will be assigned additional work.
 - They will restrict first year students from taking this class as it is combined with graduate students.
 - Once the program is running by itself, with sufficient enrollment of students, it will not need to be combined with the undergraduate class.
 - This will be built in the normal teaching obligations. Funding from the program will be used to hire an instructor to teach one of the courses he normally would have taught.
- Drake questioned if additional resources would be needed.
- Brunn-Bevel stated the Sociology department is in the process of hiring a tenure track person for Quantitative Methods and Statistics. Although it is independent of this, while interviewing, they asked the person if they wanted to teach in this type of program. It is built in the budget for adjunct salaries as well.

Vote: All in favor; motion passes unanimously

SO 465 Race, Cities, and Poverty

Motion: Drake moves to approve; Davis seconds

- Brunn-Bevel outlined the additional work of the graduate students for this course:
 - Reading an additional three books
 - Assignment for student lead classroom discussions
 - submitting summaries of the readings and asking questions to other classmates
 - 10- 15 page final paper with 10 scholarly references
 - Social explorer project includes a presentation
- Nguyen appreciated the student lead discussions; this added a new skill set. They are not simply trying to process information, they will have to master it in such a way to guide the undergraduates.
- Drake recommended having additional office hours, as well as extra compensation.
- Sauer stated the Committee should recommend taking compensation into consideration as this will apply to all of these courses.
- Nguyen will make this recommendation regarding compensation, on behalf of the ASCC, when he passes this on to the Dean's Office.

Vote: All in favor; motion passes unanimously

SO 494 Sociology of Education

Motion: Harriott moves to approve; Davis seconds

- Brunn-Bevel noted it is the same format as SO 465. Graduate students will:
 - Read all required texts
 - Participate in student lead classroom discussion
 - School and District Data Analysis Paper – 10-15 pages
 - Tracking and suspension using data
 - Research Paper

Drake liked the research methods section, it goes well with the data concentration.

Vote: All in favor; motion passes unanimously

BI 465 Evolutionary Biology

Motion: Adrada Rafael moves to approve; Harriott seconds

- Harriott noted that this class runs successfully; included are higher level thinking questions to accommodate the graduate students.
- Sauer added the undergraduate course, BI 365, is a high level course. He shared with the Committee the concern regarding the students following the Data Analytic track. Would they be prepared if they were taking this track? They would probably need General Biology I and a class in Genetics in order to manage this course. It is unclear from our experiences with some of the other engineering programs, whether those students would be prepared. If not, would they move to a different track?
- Brunn-Bevel - for the 5 year program, the students can be advised at Fairfield.
- Drake suggested using two syllabuses as the courses have different numbers - one for graduate students and one for undergraduate students.

The Committee would like another syllabus to articulate the additional assignments the graduate students would be responsible for.

Motion: Adrada Rafael withdrew the original motion

Motion: Brunn-Bevel makes a motion to approve Biology 465, Evolutionary Biology, with the change of separating the graduate syllabus from the undergraduate syllabus, articulating the independent work, additional readings and learning outcomes being reviewed by the chair upon submission from the instructor.

Vote: All in favor of the provisional approval; motion passes unanimously

PY 422 Stereotyping, Prejudice, & Discrimination

Motion: Drake moves to approve; Harriott seconds

- Brunn-Bevel noted the syllabus reflected the efforts to instruct graduate students outside of the classroom and check in with them along the way. Examples of this are the series of meetings on 2/21- first project meeting, 3/27 – second project meeting and 4/13 - final project meeting.
- Drake addressed concerns regarding the syllabus. He would like to see a syllabus made from start to finish as a graduate course. As with the other graduate courses, there are a number of questions that should be accounted for. An integrated, concentrated approach from all departments may be beneficial. He felt like this was done on an ad hoc basis. He would like to see more of a community for the graduate students, commenting that a proposal should address these questions.
- Davis would like to see a framework where graduate students were synthesizing more material and areas where they were required to think in more of a global, sophisticated way. Each concentration should have a programmatic objective.
- Sauer stated the genesis of this originated in Engineering. They reached out to various departments who developed individually, possibly without coordinating the overall vision of the program.
- Brunn-Bevel suggested the ad hoc tension may have resulted as the program is housed in Engineering, but the whole basis of the program decouples the skills of programming and data analysis from what you are analyzing. They wanted to give the departments control over crafting that part.
- Drake would like to hear justification on how this benefits the different departments.
- Nguyen suggested for the next meeting, (regarding concentrations and the five year programs) insisting that there be representation from each of these departments on what their vision is and having them field the Committee's questions and concerns.

Vote: All in favor of a provisional approval; the chair will send a message regarding programmatic objectives and learning outcomes configured for graduate students.

Meeting is adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Jean Siconolfi