

# MINUTES

CALS Curriculum Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, September 11, 2012, 12:00 p.m.  
354 Agricultural Hall

Present: Pelegri, Barak, Bland, Fadl, Hayslett, Jackson, Kloppenburg, Van Eyck, Pfatteicher, Gisler, Statter

Absent: Mitchell

Pelegri made a motion to open the meeting, and Bland seconded the motion. The motion passed, and the meeting was opened at 12:03 p.m. Introductions of all members and staff.

## **Minutes**

Jackson made a motion to approve the May 8 meeting minutes, and Barak seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

## **Automatic Consent**

Pfatteicher gave explanation to committee for new agenda heading of “automatic consent.” Committee may call a vote if the body has concerns regarding automatic consent items. No concerns were raised regarding the changes to the Forest Science curriculum, which are considered automatic consent because they affect only Food Science majors and only courses within the department.

## **New Business**

### **Proposal for Evolutionary Biology Ph.D.**

Bland acted as lead for this item. Pfatteicher stated that the proposal will be reviewed by APC who wants insight from CALS Curriculum Committee, no vote by this body required. APC will see proposals twice, once to introduce the proposal, and a second time to vote on it, allowing the members time to seek input from the groups they represent.

Strengths of the proposal included the strong reputation of the proposed institutional home (Crow Institute), a robust list of faculty, a reasonable curriculum given this stage of the proposal, and support letters from several key departments. The committee accepted the proposal’s argument that a new program is needed in order to attract the best students. The committee spent some time discussing and clarifying their understanding of the program’s structure as a joint-degree only, with a single dissertation. Joint, dual, and second programs often produce some confusion for students and for advisors, so clarity will be important moving forward.

There were no serious concerns raised, though the committee members noted several questions that APC may choose to pursue further. First, does the Crow Institute have adequate infrastructure to support a graduate program? Second, given similar programs’ inclusion of “ecology” in title (on other campuses), why was ecology not in the proposed title here? This question is addressed in “Alternative

Model #3,” but did not fully satisfy all members’ curiosity. Third, the committee notes that there are no support letters from the Plant Breeding and Plant Genetics program, and that the applied plant sciences are “conspicuously absent” from much of the proposal. Fourth, and finally, the committee raised the question of whether this program (particularly since it is proposed as a joint degree) is substantive enough to warrant a new doctoral program (as opposed to a minor, for instance). No consensus was reached on this point, as it was felt this is a question best addressed by the APCs.

One member requested page numbers be included on future versions of this proposal.

### **Special-Purpose Course Number Policies and Procedures**

No vote on whether to send memo to departments or audience it will go to. Pfatteicher explained freshmen are not allowed to register for 399 unless policy is deemed to do an injustice to student. Question raised about 80 hours of work as equivalent to 1 credit, with some interest expressed in revisiting this guideline. Suggested edits to the document: adding a note that these course numbers already exist in each department in the college, adding a paragraph on 375s, correcting typo of INDEPENDENT.

### **Announcements**

#### **New On-line Course Proposal System**

Pfatteicher provided a demonstration of the new Course Proposal system. Online system will replace paper process.

#### **Course Guide and DARS**

Pfatteicher provided overview of changes, particularly the Degree Planner feature allowing students to create tentative course plans for future semesters. Note that when running a DARS, can now choose whether to include future coursework – watch this when running and reading DARS reports.

Bland and Van Eyck move to adjourn at 1:27pm.

Submitted by Dan Statter, edited by Pfatteicher