Minutes
CALS Curriculum Committee Meeting
Tuesday, January 12, 2021, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Voting members present: Courtenay, Goldman, Holden, Kucharik, Ney, Vermillion Kalmon, Van Pijkeren
Student Members present: Mui, Rossman
Absent: Wattiaux
Ex Officio: Barber, Ackerman-Yost
Minutes Taken by: Ackerman-Yost

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Review meeting minutes from December 8, 2020

Approved by consent.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Major program changes
   Guests: David Eide   1:05-1:25pm
   Katie Butzen
   Holden/Goldman
   Nutritional Sciences MS and PhD
   Effective Fall 2021
   https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=665
   https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=794
   Description: current program was developed over 20 years ago, so time was ripe.
   • Remove emphasis group, which tended to silo students
   • Reduce required electives from 12 to 6 courses. Required coursework is already lengthy, and program finds that currently students need to delay their qualifying exam.
   • In line with peer programs
   • Two new courses

   Motion to approve: Holden/Goldman

   Discussion: The committee supports the changes to these programs. They will be beneficial for students and help to streamline the curriculum. The committee discussed the benefits and drawbacks to requiring specific graduate coursework for graduate programs in general.

   Vote: 7-0-0

2. See Information/Discussion Items for next agenda item
3. Re-review: New Course
   Wattiaux/Ney 1:45-1:55p
   **PL PATH/A A E/AGRONOMY/HORT 367:**
   Introduction to Organic Agriculture: Production, Markets, and Policy
   Effective Fall 2021
   [https://next-guide.wisc.edu/courseadmin/?key=14033](https://next-guide.wisc.edu/courseadmin/?key=14033)

   Motion to defer: Ney/Goldman

   Discussion: continued concern over the alignment of learning outcomes with the description of topics. The information provided in the schedule was general and sometimes covered multiple weeks.

   Vote 6-1-0

4. Re-review: New Course
   Courtenay/Van Pijkeren 1:55-2:05p
   **PL PATH 499**: Independent Study in Organic Agriculture
   Effective Fall 2021
   [https://next-guide.wisc.edu/courseadmin/?key=14052](https://next-guide.wisc.edu/courseadmin/?key=14052)

   Motion to approve: Courtenay/Van Pijkeren

   Discussion: The supplemental information provided by the program alleviated the major concerns of the committee.

   Vote: 7-0-0

5. See Information/Discussion Items for next agenda item

6. New Course
   Kucharik/Ney 2:20-2:30pm
   **MICROBIO 345**: Introduction to Disease Biology
   Effective Fall 2021
   [https://next-guide.wisc.edu/courseadmin/?key=14046](https://next-guide.wisc.edu/courseadmin/?key=14046)

   Motion to approve: Ney/Kucharik

   Discussion: This is an introductory course. The instructor has addressed the concerns about the discussion. Committee wants to ensure that all students will meet the learning outcomes by only completing one of the discussion topics. #2 and 6 start with “understand” – choose a more measurable verb. Our student members indicated that the discussion section information was a bit confusing re: attend one of five sections.

   Vote: 6-0-0

**INFORMATIONAL AND DISCUSSION ITEM**

1. New Graduate Certificate
   Guests: Dietram Scheufele
   Tera Wagner 1:25-1:45pm
   **Certificate in Science Communication**
   Effective Fall 2021
   [https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=1135](https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=1135)
Description: The department has an existing PhD Minor, which has been very popular from other programs across campus. Students want something transcriptable, and it facilitates particularly students who wish to pursue non-academic careers or augment their education. The department has considered the potential for an increase in enrollment, and believes they have the capacity for this increase based on the current enrollments as well as the addition of recent faculty. The committee questioned what the capacity and opportunities are for faculty mentorship in this program – the program indicated that it doesn’t feel different from what is currently occurring, where students often have mentorship at the doctoral level even if they don’t declare the doctoral minor and may request faculty to be part of their committees.

Comments from committee: The committee is in support of the graduate certificate and has no suggestions for improvement.

2. New Undergraduate Certificate 2:05-2:20pm

**Organic Agriculture Certificate**
Effective Fall 2021
[https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=1189](https://next-guide.wisc.edu/programadmin/?key=1189)

Comments from committee: Assessment plan for the certificate indicates that the same PLOs are covered by both Intro to Agroecology and Intro to Organic Agriculture, but the response to the committee regarding the difference between the two courses indicate that the Agroecology course does not cover all those PLOs.
- Very valuable topic area for undergraduates
- Appreciate the review of other certificates
- Concern that two CALS certificates are so close that students can’t do both – students could benefit from greater differentiation in program offerings, and concern about relying on a small collection of specialized courses to support a number of programs
- Appreciate the structure for the independent study requirement
- Concern about capacity for instruction for the independent study