

Curriculum Council Minutes 02/20/2025

Attendees: Amy Winn, Sally Boutelle, Maureen Bell-Werner, Effie Hortis, Matt Schunke, Suranjan Weeraratne, Mary Kaemmerer, Mary Ettling, Stephen Duda, Kamran Shavezipur, Joaquin Florido Berrocal, Ruben Gomez, Steven Morrese

Program Review Guests: Program review team – Marcelo Nieto, Department/program – Kyong-Sup Yoon, Dean's Office- Vance McCracken

Summary of Program Review Discussion: Environmental Sciences

- The review team felt the program is doing well overall; the findings and recommendations are minor and many of the recommendations were already in progress as they did their review
- The department was satisfied with the report and had no issues with it
- It was noted that the only assessment data came through the chair's response and that there were only two data points- senior assignment students and students in one course so that's all the team had but the chair indicated there was more.
- Discussed interdisciplinary nature of the program, many faculty with joint appointments in other departments – review team felt there were clear expectations but some concern over communication – chair offered this department is operating like other departments and there is a lot of opportunity to communicate. It does not seem to be an issue.
- Discussed communication with CAS advisors, possible disconnect between advising and the department – chair said this communication is happening once per semester at a faculty meeting and there is discussion around transfer students, equivalencies and other student issues
- Discussion on moving ENSC 125 earlier in the curriculum to improve student engagement. The course was recently expanded from 2 to 3 credit hours and is now offered every semester. Enrollment is strong, with 20-25 students per section. The chair uses this course to recruit majors and showcase faculty research. It was suggested that the Changemakers initiative, which moves RA 101 out of the first-year curriculum, could provide space to front-load ENSC 125.
- Question about comment in Dean's response regarding mistrust between faculty – Vance clarified that the issues were primarily around promotion and tenure and committee duties but they did not feel that these issues impacted students
- Two out of three program tracks consistently enroll fewer than 10 students. The Dean expressed concerns about the sustainability of these low-enrollment tracks. The department is open to considering merging specializations but recognizes that some courses (e.g., organic chemistry and physics) are essential for students pursuing toxicology.
- Under-enrollment impacts capstone courses (ENSC 490 and ENSC 495), which are offered in alternating semesters. If needed, these could be converted to individualized study. ENSC 220 is sometimes canceled due to low enrollment, with limited alternative courses available for faculty.
- Efforts to Boost Enrollment: Direct entry has increased major counts. Faculty encourage student engagement by integrating research exposure into ENSC 125. Students interview faculty and review faculty research to increase involvement.
- Discussion on whether calculus is necessary for all tracks. The department will consider adjustments to the requirement.

Program review decisions

- **Program Standing:**

- Jouquin made a motion for the program to be rated in good standing and Stephen Duda seconded the motion
- The motion passed by unanimous vote

- **Enrollment Status:**

- The department's current enrollment is 40 students, with an optimal target of 60. They are a newer program and have been seeing slow growth
- It was noted that they doubled enrollment in 5 years, COVID impacted overall enrollment, and that some of the growth was likely related to direct entry
- The department is already making changes to address enrollment and some question about whether a rating of "needs intervention" would compel them to do more.
- It was proposed that we rate the enrollment as "sustainable" given the ongoing department initiatives, but to note all of the ideas and concerns in the memo that accompanies the outcome of the program review
- After additional discussion, Kamran made a motion to rate the enrollment as "sustainable" and Steven Morrese seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes from November were approved with no changes. Motion to approve: by Suranjan with a second by Matt. Passed by unanimous vote.

REPORTS

UG Programs. Kamran sent email a while back to get approvals. He needs feedback and responses. Only half of the committee has responded and several cited issues with the system as reasons for not being engaged. There are two pending proposals

Course committee: No report

Gen Ed Committee: Matt reported that 4 courses were approved with attributes and that he would post a memo with the changes

Amy asked about the two open positions and there was discussion about the Director of General Education and the Director of Assessment. These positions require a specific mix of individuals for the search committee and it not been possible to fill the roles for the last several years. The committee generally expressed interest in doing so if it were going to be possible to move it forward with the remaining meetings. Elza will send Amy the position descriptions

Appeals Committee: No Appeals per Maureen

Committee on Assessment: Elza is in preparations for the HLC visit. She reminded the committee that Criteria 4 is about program assessment and it's closely looked at by HLC reviewers. She has met with GCOA to ensure alignment of processes. It is concerning when there are any gaps in data so we want to work to avoid any such issues

OFFICE UPDATES

Enrollment Management: No report per Sally

Registrar: Catalog changes are due 3/17/25 and there have been several changes such as online registration changes and publishing of the final exam schedule in CougarNet to allow students with conflicts to be proactive.

Ed Outreach: no report

Academic Advising: no report

Office of Accreditation, Assessment and Academic Planning: The HLC will be on campus on 3/31 and 4/1 Dr. Kim Black from University of Northern Colorado leads the team working with SIUE. There will be meetings focused on each of the criteria, open forums with faculty, staff and students as well as an optional tour of campus and she asks that the curriculum council make themselves available during these dates. Additionally, there will be an ask for randomly chosen syllabi so, please respond promptly if called upon to provide information for the Federal Compliance Review Team who will be working off campus on their part of the review. Please read through the assurance argument and come to the sessions as you are able

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Updates to Policy 1C1 is moving to the full senate for review and approval
2. Council operating papers (update to remove ASPSSC) was approved at faculty senate and we are awaiting the paperwork

NEW BUSINESS

Program Review: See above

Changemakers: Matt presented documents and a high-level overview of the Changemakers concept that will start as early as fall 2025. He said that in a student's year 1, they would be introduced to the themes. In year 2, they would have a project related to their chosen theme. Their choice of an IS course, following RA 101 would be influenced by the project they experienced in year 2. There will also be co-curricular activities that would support the theme

Matt suggested that there would likely need to be a policy change to move RA from ideally being offered in the first 45 hours to being between 30 and 60 hours to be more aligned with activity in year 2 for a traditional freshman.

Amy provided updates which included program reviews for March, information on Form 91B for Manufacturing Engineering and plans for the April's agenda which will include any proposals for program phase out

Motion to Adjourn by Kamran and a second by Steven Morrese