

AUC Curriculum Committee Draft Minutes

Thursday, November 17, 2021

Attendees: Adem Elveren (Economics, History, & Political Science)
Aruna Krishnamurthy (Co-Chair, English Studies)
Aisling O'Connor (Secretary, Biology/Chemistry)
Barbara Cormier (University Registrar)
Catherine Buell (Mathematics)
Cheryl Goldman (Psychological Science)
Christine Devine (Nursing)
Danielle Wigmore (Exercise & Sports Science)
Elizabeth Gordon (Earth and Geographic Sciences)
Heather Urbanski (English Studies)
Jared Vanasse (Earth and Geographic Sciences)
J.J. Sylvia (Communications Media)
Jonathan Harvey (Humanities)
Laurie Link (Education)
Lori Steckervetz (Library)
Meg Hoey (Dean of Health & Natural Sciences)
Sara Levine (Dean of Arts & Sciences)
Soumitra Basu (Co-Chair, Engineering Technology)
Steve Olson (SGA Senator)
Sydney Kinz (SGA Treasurer)
William Cortezia (Education)

Absent: Laurie Link (Education)

Guests: Mary Ann Barbato, Jane Huang, Heather Thomas, Kisha Tracy

1. Call to Order

Soumi called the meeting to order at 3:33 pm.

2. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes from the Curriculum Committee meeting of October 21, 2021: Aruna Krishnamurthy, **Second:** Sara Levine

Vote: 18/0/1 (For / Against / Abstain)

3. New Business: Request for secretary self-nominations

Soumi requested at least one more self-nomination for co-secretary, as it is very taxing for one person to take all the minutes. Liz Gordon and Jonathan Harvey self-nominated. There are now three co-secretaries!

Motion to appoint new co-secretaries, Liz Gordon and Jonathan Harvey: Sara Levine, **Second:** Adem Elveren

Vote: 20/0/0 (For / Against / Abstain)

4. Current Business

4.1 AUC 3: Math 1300 QR Designation

Motion to consider AUC 3: Sara Levine, **Second:** Adem Elveren

Sponsor: Mary Ann Barbato

Discussion: Pre-calculus was not a QR course initially, but the department looked at their core curriculum and edited the course to include applications. The new course syllabus passed through their department curriculum committee so they are now comfortable moving forward with a QR designation for Pre-calculus. JJ Sylvia asked Maryann to comment on the departmental curriculum committee vote of 3-2. Maryann indicated that the vote was taken before edits to the course syllabus were completed and those who voted against the QR designation were now more comfortable with the designation. Soumi asked about guidelines for instructors regarding the new applications. Maryann indicated that application materials would be provided for all instructors. Heather asked for an ETA on the new syllabus and if it would be on its way when this proposal goes back to the AUC. Maryann indicated it would be discussed on Dec. 8th.

VOTE: 20/0/0 (For / Against / Abstain)

4.2 AUC 4: Update the prefix for public health courses

Motion to consider AUC 4: Sara Levine, **Second:** Adem Elveren

Sponsor: Elizabeth S. Gordon

Discussion: The name of the major was previously changed to public health science so they are seeking to change the courses prefix to PHS. Heather asked if the reason there were only 4 courses with this prefix was because majors take courses from many different disciplines. Liz responded in the affirmative.

VOTE: 20/0/0 (For / Against / Abstain)

4.3 AUC 5: PL and AIA designations for GEOG 3110

Motion to consider AUC 5: Sara Levine, **Second:** Adem Elveren

Sponsor: Elizabeth S. Gordon

Discussion: The department is seeking PL and AIA designations for the for climatology course. This course includes data generation, interpretation and has prerequisites of 2 General Education courses. JJ mentioned that he was not on the committee last year and wondered if courses could have both designations. Kisha responded that we have many courses that have both. Heather asked what designations the prerequisites had. Liz replied that the both had SI and PL.

VOTE: 20/0/0 (For / Against / Abstain)

4.4 AUC 6: Adding electives to the GIS Minor curriculum

Motion to consider AUC 6: Sara Levine, **Second:** Adem Elveren

Sponsor: Jane Huang

Discussion: Jane explained that this next set of 2 proposals had been delayed due to COVID. The same action is requested in AUC 6 and 7; add 2 new course elective options to the GIS and GST minors. These courses have previously been added to the GST major and CJ minor. AUC 6 seeks the addition of Web GIS & GIS II as electives to the GIS minor curriculum. Soumi asked if this would affect any other program or department. Jane responded that it would not!

VOTE: 20/0/0 (For / Against / Abstain)

4.5 AUC 7: Adding electives to the GST Minor curriculum

Motion to consider AUC 7: Sara Levine, **Second:** Adem Elveren

Sponsor: Jane Huang

Discussion: See discussion for AUC 6. Soumi asked about the difference between GIS and GST. Jane responded that GIS is the field of geographic information systems (computer mapping and data analysis) and GST is the name of the program/major (geographic science & technology).

VOTE: 20/0/0 (For / Against / Abstain)

4.6 AUC 8: PL and AIA designation for "GIS for Criminal Justice"

Motion to consider AUC 8: Sara Levine, **Second:** Adem Elveren

Sponsor: Jane Huang

Discussion: This course is co-taught course by Jane and a CJ professor. The PL designation is requested as the course will be taught using technology to map crimes and look for solutions / solve crimes. The AIA designation is also requested as the course is co-taught by professors from different disciplines. Jane indicated that both departmental curriculum committees have approved this proposal. The professor teaching this course next semester is part-time as the CJ professor who taught it has retired. Barbara mentioned that the courses are not cross-listed in system; not programmed in Banner (CJ and GEOG). Jane said the intention was to cross list the courses. Kisha said it is cross-listed in the catalog. Barbara asked if this went through AUC as a cross-listed course and said she would do some research. AUC #90 (2018) proposal indicated that this course is cross-listed. JJ mentioned that the course number in the 2018 proposal is different Jane said this is because it was first taught as topics course the course number changed.

Heather asked if the administration will provide ongoing support for co-taught courses. Sara, in her current position as Dean, responded that if there is enrollment to support the course it will run. The CJ department is also looking at using this course this instead of a data analysis course for majors, which should drive enrollment. Kisha added that Franca and Cathy have said that team-taught courses go through AUC as team-taught. Jane wants to introduce both disciplines to the students and the vehicle for this is team teaching. Heather asked Jane if she was seeking IHIP and she had checked both AIA and IHIP. This course has a high impact component and integrates 2 disciplines. Kisha reminded committee members and guests that all IHIPs are AIAs, but not all AIAs are IHIP! Sara recommend changing the title of the proposal, replacing AIA with IHIP. Aruna asked if this course will not be taught if it cannot be team taught. Jane responded that so far it has been team taught as she is not a CJ professor. Meg said that this will always be a team taught course unless we hire a GIS faculty member with a CJ background (which is highly unlikely)!

Friendly amendment: change the title of the proposal to "PL and IHIP designation for "GIS for Criminal Justice"

VOTE with friendly amendment: 20/0/0 (For / Against / Abstain)

4.7 AUC 9: DP and PL designation to Urban Geography

Motion to consider AUC 9: Sara Levine, **Second:** Adem Elveren

Sponsor: Jane Huang

Discussion: Jane explained that this is a social geography course which examines urban patterns, what kind of people distribute where, economic differences between urban areas globally etc . GIS is used to map out urban areas, which fits the PL designation. Soumi added that what it means to be urban is very different in different parts of the world and even within the US. Jane responded that it is also very different in the developing world too.

VOTE: 20/0/0 (For / Against / Abstain)

4.8 AUC 10: DP designation for four social geography courses

Motion to consider AUC 10: Sara Levine, **Second:** Adem Elveren

Sponsor: Jane Huang

Discussion: This bulk proposal requests DP for four GEOG courses. Each course focuses on a different aspect of society, but look at the subject from a diverse perspective.

VOTE: 20/0/0 (For / Against / Abstain)

4.8 AUC 11: Add LAB designation to GEOG1000 for the old LA&S curriculum

Motion to consider AUC 11: Sara Levine, **Second:** Adem Elveren

Sponsor: Liz Gordon

Discussion: Last year a lab was added to GEOG 1000, but the department forgot to request the LAB designation for the old LA&S. Liz asked Barbara if this could be added retroactively. Barbara said it can be programmed in Banner, but didn't know if it was allowed. Barbara also indicated that this course is cross listed with GEOG 1300 and if the LAB designation has to be added for this course also. Liz responded that students cannot get credit for both courses and GEOG 1300 no longer exists. Kisha recommended adding a line in the proposal regarding the retroactive request.

Friendly amendment: add the following text to the proposal - "We request that the LAB designation be retroactive to Fall 2021"

VOTE: 20/0/0 (For / Against / Abstain)

4.9 Motion to Extend

Motion to extend meeting beyond 4:30 pm: Sara Levine, **Second:** Adem Elveren

VOTE: 20/0/0 (For / Against / Abstain)

4.10 AUC 12: General Education Designations for Select Honors Courses

Motion to consider AUC 12: Sara Levine, **Second:** Adem Elveren

Sponsor: Catherine Buell

Discussion: Catherine explained that the following 3 proposals (AUC 12, 13 & 14) all from relate to the honors program. Many HON courses went through last year in bulk proposals submitted by various departments. Now she is seeking General Education designations for any remaining HON courses. This proposal seeks AIA designations for 3 courses. A committee member asked if the curriculum committees of the respective departments approved the designations. Catherine responded that she has supporting letters from department chairs or the curriculum committees.

VOTE: 20/0/0 (For / Against / Abstain)

4.10 AUC 13: General Education Designations for HON 1020

Motion to consider AUC 13: Sara Levine, **Second:** Adem Elveren

Sponsor: Catherine Buell

Discussion: Catherine explained that this course was not included in other proposal as DP, AIA and IHIP designations are being requested for HON 1020 (Current Events & Service Learning). A committee member asked Catherine why they need so many HON courses with AIA and IHIP designations. Catherine responded that they feel that the spirit of the classes meet these designations and a student could leave the honors program and therefore use these courses to fulfill General Education requirements. Another committee member asked if AIA / IHIP courses have to be 2000 level and above Kisha responded that they do not necessarily have to be 2000+. Aruna asked if the DP label for the course was local, national or international. The focus of the course is on the local community, but students are learning about the diverse community of Fitchburg, which also has an international aspect to it.

VOTE: 20/0/0 (For / Against / Abstain)

4.11 AUC 14: AIA and IHIP for Honors Thesis I and Honors Thesis II

Motion to consider AUC 14: Sara Levine, **Second:** Adem Elveren

Sponsor: Catherine Buell

Discussion: Catherine explained that Honors Thesis I and II are independent student-faculty projects conducted over 2 semesters. She was assuming these would be retroactive. Aisling asked if this was being requested and if it needed to be added to the proposal. This will be amended at the AUC level.

VOTE: 20/0/0 (For / Against / Abstain)

5. Motion to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 4:47 pm: Sara Levine, **Second:** Adem Elveren

VOTE: 20/0/0 (For / Against / Abstain)

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Aisling O'Connor