



State University of New York College of
Environmental Science and Forestry
Academic Affairs Committee

Minutes for January 31, 2023 Meeting 11 AM

Voting Members present- Eddie Bevilacqua, Avik Chatterjee, Shijie Liu, Valerie Luzadis, Brandon Murphy, Kim Schulz, Scott Shannon, Wendong Tao, Benette Whitmore

Non-voting members present- Terrance Caviness, Jeremy Coleman, Casey Duffy, Beth Minard, Leslie Rutkowski, Erin Tochelli

1. Call to Order 11:05
2. Scott Shannon will be serving as chair of the committee
3. Approval of Minutes- Approved by acclamation.
4. Updates from the Associate Provost
 - a. Erin Tochelli has a new title, Associate Director of Academic Administration. Her role will help connect the AG processes with Administrative needs of undergraduate programs. This includes tracking proposals through SUNY/NYSED processes, catalog updates etc.
 - b. Thanks for getting your proposals in for Gen Ed changes! We are working with the departments who have/are proposing DEISJ courses to plan and schedule when those are needed.
 - c. We will be working on developing our gen ed assessment program. The new Assessment/IR person will be addressing this.
 - d. Environmental Studies Ph.D. is moving through the next steps of approval.
5. Administrative Approvals- Approved 1/30/2023
 - a. Curriculum Revision B.S. Chemistry
 - b. Curriculum Revision B.S. Biochemistry
 - c. Curriculum Revision B.S. Forest Ecosystem Science (approved 1/17/2023)
 - d. Curriculum Revision B.S. Environmental Resource Engineering
 - e. Curriculum Revision B.S. Environmental Education and Interpretation
 - f. Curriculum Revision B.S. Environmental Science
 - g. Curriculum Revision B.S. Paper Science Engineering
 - h. Curriculum Revision B.S. Bioprocess Engineering
 - i. Curriculum Revision B.S. Chemical Engineering
6. Action Items:
 - a. Curriculum Revision B.S. Construction Management
 - i. Changes are for gen ed as well as changing the calc course from APM 115 to APM 105.
Approved 9-0-0
 - b. Curriculum Revision B.S. Natural Resource Management
 - i. Changes to gen ed, Survey of Bio (EFB 100), Environmental Physics (FOR 110). Physics will be offered both semesters, which should accommodate all needs (and address issues with the “quality” of the SU Physics.

- ii. In relation to FOR 110- cap should be established by the needs and availability of resources, rather than determined by instructor
- iii. If a student takes Gen Bio or Gen Physics they would be considered equivalent as a transfer. Department is working on determining what transfer courses should be encouraged based on knowledge areas.
- iv. Does the Physics class work for students transferring to/from Ranger School because it is not lab based? SRM will have further conversations to decide how best to advise those few students that may be impacted.
- v. Why did you move 1 credit to free elective instead of dropping the total number of credits to graduate? It creates an odd number of electives for students which could be a challenge. SRM didn't want to drop the total number of credits to graduate, even though they are above the minimum 120. There are other places within directed electives where students may end up taking a 4-credit class which could count towards their total. They can also potentially waive the 1-credit as long as they have earned 120.
- vi. Do we know if this will create issues with internal transfers? Do students in NRM move to EB where the Survey of Bio won't count? Although there is not official tracking of internal transfers, more often we see EB students coming to NRM/SRM programs rather than the other way. EFB 100 is also a spring course, so a typical student would have a semester to decide before making that change.
 - 1. Need to be sure that Admissions understands that the first-year experience is not universally the same across departments so they are not promoting easy internal transfer when that may not be the case
- vii. Does this impact students' ability to be considered for DEC jobs? They have been taking this class unofficially for several years and we have not had issues
- viii. "Hidden" prerequisites and tracking prereqs is an issue. Some students enroll for classes they aren't qualified to take because there is no way to block their registration. Some of these changes may exacerbate that issue.
 - 1. Since we do not own our registration system, we have limitations on blocking registration. The only way we can control this is by class level or program (eg. Seniors only or LA students only)
 - 2. ESF grades are not entered into MySlice which is why the system doesn't know how to read prerequisites. ESF has "shadow records" in MySlice which have very limited data. We can see what options are available to help, but it may not be possible to fully integrate our records to allow for the same controls.

Approved 9-0-0

- c. Curriculum Revision B.S. Forest Resources Management
 - i. Changes to gen ed and Survey of Bio.
 - Approved 9-0-0**
- d. Curriculum Revision B.S. Sustainable Energy Management
 - i. Changes to gen ed, Survey of Bio (EFB 100), Environmental Physics (FOR 110).

- ii. Comment: It seems that Energy Management should consider a Calc based Physics for their students to advance in their careers.
Approved 9-0-0
- e. Course Proposal FOR 110 Environmental Physics
 - i. Question about whether this course is similar to PHY 101 at SU. Some topics are similar but it does not have a lab.
 - ii. Course proposal and general education supplement: approval **Approved 9-0-0**
- 7. Old Business
 - a. Updated forms that were created last semester still need to be posted. Once they are made into pdf forms, they will be sent to the group to check that there are no issues.
 - b. Syllabus Template needs to be updated. If/when midsemester grade policy is adopted, we would want that included.
 - i. There was a question about how to transfer grades from Blackboard to Banner. There is a method to do this and we are trying to get others the tools to do it as well. There is a gap in what comes out of BB and what can match to banner (student ID info) that they are trying to find a work around for.
 - c. Is EWP 220 going to be considered as an oral comm course? Erin will follow up with Tyler
- 8. New Business
 - a. What can Banner do for you? Collect information from your department and send one document to Valerie about what you would like to see out of this program. We will see what is possible given the confines of our resources.

Adjourn 11:58