

State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry

Academic Affairs Committee

Minutes for February 28, 2023 Meeting 11 AM

Voting members present: Shijie Liu, Avik Chatterjee, Kim Schulz, Wendong Tao, Ann Moore, Benette Whitmore, Scott Shannon, Brandon Murphy, Eddie Bevilacqua, Valerie Luzadis Non-voting members present: Terrance Caviness, Jeremy Coleman, Andrea Parker, Beth Minard, Leslie Rutkowski, Matt Smith, Erin Tochelli

- 1. Call to Order 11:02
- 2. Approval of Minutes- Approved
- 3. Updates from the Office of Academic Administration
 - a. MSCHE visit March 28-29- Undergraduate coordinators will be there to talk about assessment
 - b. Final guidance document for gen ed implementation posted:
 https://system.suny.edu/media/suny/content-assets/documents/academic-affairs/general-education/suny-ge/MTP-SUNY-General-Education_Vol-23_No-1.pdf
 - i. Summary: natural science has been expanded to include social science classes that employ the use of scientific reasoning; gen ed courses do not have to be in liberal arts and sciences, technical courses can be considered; single courses in multiple GE categories allowable with solid assessment plan; and guidance on mapping core competencies.
 - ii. PPT will be sent to committee
- 4. Administrative Approvals- Approved 2/13/2023 (will be migrated to the new website soon)
 - a. Curriculum Revision B.S. Renewable Materials Science- Polymer Science Option
 - b. Curriculum Revision B.S. Renewable Materials Science- Paper Science Option
 - c. Curriculum Revision B.S. Renewable Materials Science-Wood Science Option
- 5. Action Items:
 - a. Curriculum Revision B.S. Environmental Studies
 - i. Summary- Gen ed updates, EFB 100 Survey of Bio for ECS and EPPL option areas
 - ii. Discussion- none

Approved 9-0-0

- b. Curriculum Revision B.S. Conservation Biology
 - i. Summary- gen ed updates, updated directed electives, added FOR 110 (replaced PHY 101)
 - ii. Discussion
 - 1. Advanced Interp should be listed as EST 474 (not 496) title Advanced Interpretation and Environmental Education
 - 2. ERE 563 not taught anymore (replace with ERE 365 Remote Sensing)
 - 3. Remove 496 courses
 - Conversation happened around a lack of faculty to teach MCR courses. UGC will follow up with options to continue to teach Approved 9-0-0

- c. Curriculum Revision B.S. Forest Health
 - Summary- Addition of colloquium (earlier in program), seminar, and updates to gen ed. Several course replacements, course title changes and removal of courses which are no longer offered. Added new courses to biodiversity DE
 - ii. Discussion
 - 1. EFB 245 or 344? How does this work? Students who come in early will take 245, but since it is not offered every year, 344 will count for those who transfer later in the program.
 - 2. Silviculture number is incorrect. Should be FOR 334 and 4 credits. If this is not accounted for in total credits, FH will reduce the free electives to 18 credits.

Approved 9-0-0

- d. Curriculum Revision B.S. Environmental Biology
 - i. Summary- gen ed updates, updated directed electives, added FOR 110 (replaced PHY 101), changed DE category names
 - ii. Discussion- none

Approved 9-0-0

- e. Curriculum Revision B.S. Biotechnology
 - i. Summary- remove Evolution, Diversity of Life I/II, credit change to BTC 401, credit change internship, gen ed update, change to free elective total
 - ii. Discussion-
 - 1. Course proposal for BTC 401 has not been presented with proposal (submitted 3/1/2023)

Approved 9-0-0

- f. Curriculum Revision B.S. Aquatic and Fisheries Science
 - i. Summary- gen ed updates, updated directed electives, added FOR 110 (replaced PHY 101)
 - ii. Discussion- none

Approved 9-0-0

- g. Curriculum Revision B.S. Wildlife Science
 - Summary- removed EWP 290, add DEISJ, add EWP 220, add FOR 110, added ESF 300, changed Physical Science list, added required policy course, added wildlife bio courses, updated DE list, removed DE categories in vertebrate diversity, invertebrate diversity, policy, structure and function and technical skills.
 - ii. Discussion
 - 1. Does the math work out on the total credits? We need to check to make sure all of the numbers are correct
 - 2. As one of the highest enrollment majors on campus, how are we going to accommodate all of these students in EWP 220? It is typically full in all sections every semester.
 - a. There is some concern about how to make this happen. It will require a lot of administrative coordination to make sure we have enough instructor support to run the number of sections this will require.
 - b. They can shift some instructors from EWP 290 to EWP 220 potentially

- c. Taking away a writing class is also a major concern. They do learn scientific writing skills through the rest of the program (and maybe a future assessment could swing the pendulum back to requiring writing).
- d. Comment was made that some students may pursue a certification that requires additional communication courses. There was concern that that would create a resource strain if we have shifted faculty to 220, but demand on 290 does not sufficiently diminish. 290 would not be a class of focus because it is centered on science communication (different field)
 - Wildlife may need to meet with Environmental Studies to work through what the right courses are for that list
- e. EWP 190 will have include oral communication
- 3. ESF 300 is also a high enrollment course. What will the enrollment impact be? Right now almost all Wildlife students take this class already so it should not be an issue

Approved 9-0-0

- h. Course Proposal ESF 200 Information Literacy
 - i. Summary- more robust catalog description, online addendum
 - ii. Discussion
 - Encouraged to remove "Blackboard blog" term. Replace with BB forum

Approved 9-0-0

- i. Course Proposal EFB 463 Ecotoxicology
 - i. New course
 - ii. Discussion
 - 1. Shared resource courses- what are the differences between the two?
 - a. Additional SLO and extra details in others, concepts are deeper
 - 2. 2.15- typo on course number

Approved 9-0-0

- j. Course Proposal EFB 663 Ecotoxicology
 - i. No discussion

Approved 9-0-0

New Business

SUNY approved the prior learning assessment proposal. We will need to look at how ESF wants to approach awarded credit in this area.

It will apply to transfer credit

Next meeting: March 28, 2023