



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

Minutes for March 28, 2023 Meeting 11 AM

Voting members present: Scott Shannon, Brandon Murphy, Benette Whitmore, Russ Briggs, Kim Schulz, Rene Germain (for Eddie Bevilacqua), Wendong Tao, Avik Chatterjee

Non-voting members present: Leslie Rutkowski, Beth Minard, Dan Collins, Amelia Hoffman, Silas Cochran, Tyler Dorholt, Anne Lombard, Margaret Bryant

1. Call to Order 11:02
2. Approval of Minutes **Approved by acclamation.**
3. Action Items:
 - a. Course Revision EWP 190 Writing and the Environment
 - i. There were several comments shared via email. The proposal is accepted pending revisions. **Approved.**
 - b. Course Revision EHS 150 US History and Environmental Health
 - i. No discussion. **Approved.**
 - c. Policy Proposal- Midterm Grading
 - i. How are we defining midterm grade and what point is “midterm”? Does that mean a midterm exam or all of the grades up to that midterm point of the semester?
 1. Date is defined by Registrar
 2. Ideally it would be whatever tasks are completed/graded up until that point
 - ii. SRM faculty discussed this and thought we were already doing this through Blackboard, so are curious why this proposal was coming forward and why there should be an additional step for them to grade when they report students of concern to Student Affairs.
 1. This policy is asking for the grades to be dumped from Blackboard to Banner so that advisors and Student Success would then be able to see where students stand in a course.
 - a. There was a comment about Neal Abrams sharing a video of how to do this, which has not yet been produced **new process was developed to assist this policy- video is being produced.**
 - b. The new process will actually make grading easier all around.
 - c. There is a way to post midterm grades in Banner. Since not all faculty utilize Blackboard, this would systematize how grades are shared with students.
 - iii. Seminar courses may not have grades at the midterm. Midterm exams may not be graded ahead of the midterm grade due date.

1. SU has a two-week time period to post midterm grades. We can use the same model. It should be established in the syllabus what grades would be included in the midterm grade.
 2. The focus is on the courses at the 100, 200, 300 level. Seminars and other upper level courses may not have to provide this feedback if the grading doesn't follow traditional metrics.
- iv. The previous vote was to support MOSA's resolution for midterm grading. This is the academic policy. What we are looking for is the support of why this is important, and then the administration will look at how to make it happen smoothly.
1. This also helps with institutional effectiveness. If we see that a student is struggling at midterm and they are provided academic interventions, do they turn things around? How well do our interventions work? Most of SUNY already does this.
- v. Is this going to be an early alert system as part of this? Information without context can be equally deceptive.
1. We are looking into that, but it would be a separate entity.
- vi. **With the caveat that the policy will go into effect pending the administration provides the necessary computing solutions to bulk upload grades: Approved**
- d. Curriculum Revision BLA Landscape Architecture (General Education)- Amend 312 to 212 in the new curriculum. **Approved.**
- e. Course Revision/replacement LSA 212 Place, Culture and Design- No discussion. **Approved.**

There was a conversation about the BLA 5-to-4 year program, which was not eligible to be voted on for this meeting. No significant comments were noted outside of questions regarding when this becomes available to new students. Fall 2023 students may be allowed to transition to the shorter program if they take a summer studio. The vote is invalid.

- f. Course Revision EFB 120 Global Environment and Society- No discussion. **Approved.**
- g. Course Revision EST 140 Introduction to Native Peoples, Lands and Cultures- No discussion. **Approved.**
- h. Course Revision EST 202 American History: From Discovery to Civil War- Online addendum needs attention. **Tabled.**
- i. Course Revision EST 204 Diversity and Knowledge of the Environment- No discussion. **Approved.**
- j. New Course EST 205 Identity, Culture and Environment- No discussion. **Approved.**
- k. Course Revision EST 221 Intro to American Government- No discussion. **Approved.**
- l. Course Revision EST 231 Environmental Geology- No discussion. **Approved.**
- m. New Course SRE 481 Advanced Life Cycle Assessment- Expand the catalog description to be more robust. **Approved.**
- n. New Course SRE 681 Advanced Life Cycle Assessment- Catalog description. Instructional methods and SLOs did not seem significantly different. **Tabled.**
- o. Course Revision EFB 217 Peoples, Plagues and Pests- No discussion. **Approved.**
- p. New Course EFB 222 Scuba and the Science of Diving- No discussion. **Approved.**

- q. New Course EFB 322 Scuba Diving International Foundations- No discussion.
Approved.

Remaining items tabled for next meeting.

- r. Course Revision EFB 303 Introductory Environmental Microbiology
- s. New Course EFB 306 Wildlife Field Techniques
- t. Course Revision EFB 326 Plant Evolution, Diversification and Conservation
- u. Course Replacement EFB 505 to EFB 402 Microbial Ecology
- v. Course Replacement EFB 505 to EFB 602 Microbial Ecology
- w. Course Revision BTC 401 Molecular Biology Techniques
- x. Course Revision EFB 601 Molecular Biology Techniques
- y. Course Revision BTC 420 Internship in Biotechnology

Next meeting:
April 11, 2023 **Moon 19**