

Undergraduate Council (UGC)

Thursday, March 13, 2014 – Meeting Minutes

- I. **Chair's Report – Jay Sharping**
Recording available on crops
A. February 24 Division Council Meeting
B. March 3 UCEP Meetings
C. March 10 Academic integrity task force
- II. **Consent Calendar**
Agenda approved as presented.
- III. **BOARS Report – Vice Chair Vevea**
[January 10 Meeting](#)
[February 7 Meeting](#)
[March 7 Meeting](#)
- IV. **Report from the CRF Subcommittee – Virginia Adan-Lifante, Elliott Campbell, Carrie Menke**
UGC Recommendations:
ENG:
- [MSE 121: Mechanical Behavior of Materials](#): Recommend approval pending revisions of maximum enrollment, syllabus, PLOs and CLOs.
 - [BIOE 126: Nanodevice Fabrication: Bridging Research and Education](#): Recommend approval
 - [MSE 126: Nanodevice Fabrication: Bridging Research and Education](#): Recommend approval
- SNS:**
UGC recommended approval of the following courses:
- [BIO 124: Microbial Evolution](#)
 - [BIO 001L: Contemporary Biology Lab](#)
 - [BIO 002L: Introduction to Molecular Biology Lab](#)
 - [BIO 161: Human Physiology](#)
 - [BIO 181: Introduction to Biomolecular Simulation](#)
 - [BIO 181: Introduction to Biomolecular Simulation](#)
 - [CHEM 181: Introduction to Biomolecular Simulation](#)
 - [MATH 011: Calculus I](#)
 - [MATH 015: Introduction to Scientific Data Analysis](#)
 - [MATH 021: Calculus I for Physical Sciences and Engineering](#)
 - [MATH 180: Modern Applied Statistics](#)
 - [PHYS 109: Soft Matter Physics](#)
 - [PHYS 180: Nonlinear Dynamics](#)

SSHA

- Core 001- Approved with appropriate framing language in Catalog and syllabus (one abstention: Anne Zanzucchi)
- ARTS 006- Approved pending revisions
- GASP 002-Same as ARTS 6-approve pending revisions
- COGS 104 – Approve pending revisions – CLO section in course outline is incomplete (see comments in CRF system)
- POLI 171 – Approved pending revisions
- POLI 190 – Approve pending revisions-change TIE code to lecture

Approved as presented:

- COGS 127
- COGS 160
- PHIL 171
- ECON 5
- MGMT 5
- MGMT 65 – Discontinued – replaced by MGMT/ECON 5
- HIST 100
- HIST 124 A
- HIST 124 B
- HIST 191
- PH 111
- PH 112
- PH 113
- PH 135
- PH 137
- PH 181
- PHIL 005
- PHIL 009
- PHIL 102
- PHIL 130
- PHIL 131
- PHIL 157
- POLI 170

V. Requests from SSHA – All requests effective Fall 2014

A. Proposal for a Public Health Major

Professor Paul Brown attended a UGC meeting in December to present the proposal and answer questions

- The proposal is completely written according to the current senate policies ([Campus policy](#) and [UGC policy](#)). Chair read highlights of the policies.

For This agenda may contain confidential and privileged material for the sole use of UGC Members.

Prior to making a recommendation on this major, UGC consulted with CAPRA on resource implications and CAPRA recommended approval of the major.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously carried to approve the Public Health major, effective Fall 2014.

B. Revised Political Science Major

Proposed Changes:

1. Addition of Pre-Law as subfield
2. Students will be required to select two subfields and take three upper division classes from each subfield
3. Total number of required upper division classes has been increased from eight to nine.

Comments:

The addition of the pre-law subfield will be helpful to students who might be interested in Law. The issue is advising was brought up.

Is there any evidence that shows the impact of adding an additional required upper division course? Are students graduating in four years?

The increased number of 52 units for the major and this isn't an alarming number. This seems to be a reasonable number of units. Although it could be difficult to compare to other programs (e.g. some programs in the sciences have 60 units) because some of the majors have GE built into the curriculum so it is not comparable.

Are there other UCs with pre-law in political science?

Four-year time to degree is a big deal across the system and we need to pay attention to the likelihood that this might make it so transfer students can't get that degree in a reasonable amount of time.

Action: UGC unanimously approved the proposed changes and will request some information on plans for advising students in this major and the impact these changes may have on students' time to degree, particularly on transfer students.

C. Revised Philosophy Minor

Proposed Changes (Bold underlined):

Lower Division Minor Requirements [48 units]

Complete **one of** the following courses:

PHIL 001: Introduction to Philosophy [4 units]

PHIL 002: Introduction to Ethics [4 units]

PHIL 003: Applied Ethics [4 units]

PHIL 005: ~~Logic and Critical Reasoning~~ **Introduction to Logic** [4 units]

PHIL 009: Phenomenology and Existentialism [4 units]

Upper Division Minor Requirements [16 units]

• Four upper-division courses chosen from a list on the SSHA Advising website ssha-advising.ucmerced.edu. Pre-approved courses not on that list may be substituted. Pre-approval should be sought from Philosophy faculty.

~~A minimum of four additional upper-division PHIL courses.~~

~~Pre-approved courses from other areas may be substituted. Pre-approval should be sought from Philosophy faculty.~~

- Changes were approved by the BL unit and the CC. No changes are made unless they come from BL unit.
- Within advising units, processes are clear and consultation took place with Philosophy faculty

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously carried to unanimously approve the proposed changes to the Philosophy minor.

D. Revised Philosophy PLOs (carried over from last meeting)

Guidelines for Undergraduate PLOs are available here:

[http://senate.ucmerced.edu/files/public/Undergraduate%20CLO%20 %20PLO%20Guidelines%20Final%20May%202012.pdf](http://senate.ucmerced.edu/files/public/Undergraduate%20CLO%20%20PLO%20Guidelines%20Final%20May%202012.pdf)

Relevant policies for review and approval of minors are available here:

http://senate.ucmerced.edu/files/public/UGC_CRFPolicyRevised1.19.11.pdf

<http://senate.ucmerced.edu/sites/senate.ucmerced.edu/files/public/MinorsPolicyFinal9.14.10.pdf>

Per the SSHA memo: “the revised PLOs and the course offerings for the degree. The revised PLOs reflect disciplinary standards for training students in the field at the undergraduate level, and align the curriculum with the specializations of the faculty.”

Proposed PLOs:

Upon graduation, we expect students minoring in philosophy to master all of the following:

1. Logic: Identify and assess the logic of arguments.
2. Topics: Identify and explain the central questions within major topics of philosophical research.
3. Ideas: Describe the contributions of major thinkers in the philosophical canon.
4. Application: Apply philosophical knowledge (from logic, topics, or ideas) to a subject in another discipline, and/or apply knowledge from another discipline to a subject in philosophy.

A request was made to clarify PLO 3 as the language suggests that there is only one canon in philosophy.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously carried to table discussion pending some clarification and identification of PLO 3.

This item will be reviewed and discussed at the next meeting.

For This agenda may contain confidential and privileged material for the sole use of UGC Members.

VI. Requests from SNS:**A. Proposal for Natural Sciences Education Minor with Teaching Credential (NSEC) – effective Fall 2014**

“The Natural Sciences Education Minor with Teaching Credential (NSEC) is a program designed for students interested in graduating concurrently with a Bachelor’s degree from UC Merced and a single subject teaching credential from UC Berkeley. The NSEC minor is being developed as part of the California Teach (CalTeach) Program, also known as the Science and Mathematics Initiative (SMI). The proposed minor has more units and is and adds an extra semester”. This program is “a new partnership between CalTeach programs at UC Merced and UC Berkeley, funded by the UC Office of the President, solves this problem and offers students an option to obtain a teaching credential from UC Berkeley while completing their Bachelor’s degree at UC Merced. The current proposal for the NSED Minor with Teaching Credential (NSEC) formalizes this option to allow for easy administration, advising and registration of students interested in this program.

This program will help our students who want to be teachers.

A comment was made to change PSY 121 to PSY 160 and prerequisite for this course should be PSY 001 or COGS 1.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously carried to approve the NSEC minor, effective fall 2014.

B. SNS Catalog

Chair Sharping asked for volunteers to review the school copies of the Catalog. Three teams of three reviewers (one from each school). Chair will assign reviewers.

Registrar requested UGC approval of the Catalog by April 1st.

VII. Requests from SOE**A. Nano-Technology MSE Emphasis**

To be discussed at the next meeting.

B. SOE Catalog

To be discussed at the next meeting.

VIII. Program Review Committee Charge (carried over from last meeting)

PRC charge was sent to UGC and the Graduate Council on November 6. UGC approved it on December 11 and GC proposed changes to the charge on January 22, 2014.

This item will be reviewed and approved electronically.

IX. Entry-Level Writing Requirement – Chair Sharping, VPDUE Whitt and Policy Subcommittee (Virginia Adan-Lifante, Carrie Menke and Elliott Campbell)

The ELWR statement is included in the 2011-2013 and 2013-14 Catalogs but was not reviewed or vetted by UGC.

This item will be discussed at the April 10 meeting.

For This agenda may contain confidential and privileged material for the sole use of UGC Members.

X. Upcoming Business:**A. Normal Progress to Degree** (Request from SNS)

The policy states that students are allowed 9 terms to complete their degree requirements and enrollment beyond 9 terms requires the approval of the appropriate School Dean. Up until now, this policy has not been enforced but in an effort to increase timely graduation, the School advising units have begun to send messaging to students on this policy and the potential consequences. The advising units have developed communications and a petition process collaboratively so there is consistency in the messaging the students will receive.

Action Requested: Discuss plans for enforcing this policy in the future.

B. Honors Courses in CRF System (Request from SNS)

Discussion: There are courses outside of SNS that need to be explicitly listed in the CRF system to allow the Physics and Chemistry honors courses to serve as pre-requisites for their regular counterparts. The level of coordination for listing existing courses and subsequent modifications when further honors courses are developed is extremely high with this approach. Is there some way that honors courses could automatically be recognized as satisfying pre-requisites since they have the same course number? And could this become standard policy for existing courses as well as future courses?

C. Grade Appeals (Request from Campus Ombuds)

Action Requested: Review the current policy and clarify campus procedures for grade appeals.

XI. Executive Session**A. Revised Management Major: Proposal to change Management B.S. to a B.S. in Management & Business Economics**

Action: Changes to the Management major were unanimously approved by UGC.

The Division Council will be asked to review the proposed changes. On April 10, DivCo endorsed these changes and transmitted its recommendation to the Provost on April 16.

B. Management Program Review

Action: UGC will send a memo to the Administration to initiate the “response phase” of this review.