# Academic Programs Subcommittee Meeting Minutes February 14th, 2023

**Voting members present:** Jennifer Donahue, Melissa Goldsmith, Allison Lee, Dana Lema, Shujuan Li, Moe Momayez, Holly Nelson, Lisa Rezende, Paul Wagner, Pat Yango

**Non-voting members present:** Jeff Andrews-Hanna, Jim Baygents, Catherine Brooks, Joan Curry, Daniel Downes, Frederick Lewis, Melanie Madden, Laura Owen, Anne Pagel, Judd Ruggill, Liz Sandoval, Claudia Stanescu, Jayanthi Sunder

**Voting members absent:** none

1. Holly Nelson called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM with a quorum of 6 voting members

present.

1. Approval of January 10th, 2023, Minutes

Pat Yango moved to approve minutes. Paul Wagner seconded. Motion carried with 6 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstain.

1. Old Business

**A. New Major: BS Computer Science and Engineering (Engineering)**

Committee member notes that there was a letter received from the Dean of the College of Science indicating she was not in support of the major. There were two memos that were issued on February 8th, one in support of the proposal, the other in opposition to the name on the proposal. Since the memos were sent, there has also been additional documentation received that highlights and supports the chosen name as the same used in peer institutions in similar situations and programs. Committee member notes that the memo did not only mention opposition to the name but also the structure of the program on account of its similarity to an already existing program. Another committee member responds that the noting of the structure in the memo was a justification for disapproval of the program’s name.

Paul Wagner moved to approve. Dana Lema seconded. Motion carried with 9 yeas, 1 nay, 0 abstain.

**B. Modification: Bachelor of Architecture (CAPLA)**

Committee member notes that the GPA requirement had been removed from the proposal but had not been changed on their website. Committee member explains that according to UGC bylaws, the committee does not have purview over the College’s self-determined admission requirements, and thus it has been removed from the proposal. The increase in credit hours is what is being voted on.

Pat Yango moved to approve. Allison Lee seconded. Motion carried with 10 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstain.

1. New Items

**A. New Emphases: Applied Humanities – Environmental Systems (Humanities)**

Presented by Judd Ruggill, Joan Curry, and Jim Baygents

These are two distinct emphases that are being put forth for approval. They mirror our 8 standard emphases and are collaborations between our department and our college with other units in different college or the college in its entirety. The Engineering Approaches emphases is a collaboration with the entirety of the Engineering College while the Environmental Systems emphases is a collaboration with the Department of Environmental Science in CALS. As with all our emphases, they share 40% of their core curriculum while the emphasis partner supplies 18 units.

**Q:** Regarding the Environmental Science emphases, there seems to be a prerequisite listed that wasn’t part of the program. Is there a plan in place to help make sure students have that taken care of?

**A:** We have excellent advising, some students come with that already, others do not. We work with students to help them get the resources they need to transition easily into the program.

**Q:** Are there any opportunities for a collaboration with the CAPLA and the Sustainable Built Environments program? It was mentioned throughout the proposal but was not listed in potential collaborations.

**A:** We have a great relationship with CAPLA and already have a collaboration with our Spatial Organization and Design emphasis and would be very interested in including courses from the Sustainable Built Environments program.

Paul Wagner moved to approve. Jennifer Lynn Donahue seconded. Motion carried with 10 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstain.

**B. New Emphases: Applied Humanities – Engineering Approaches (Humanities)**

Presented by Judd Ruggill, Joan Curry, and Jim Baygents

See previous item for details.

Paul Wagner moved to approve. Lisa Rezende seconded. Motion carried with 10 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstain.

**C. Modification: BA in Games and Behavior (SBS)**

Presented by Laura Owen, Catherine Brooks, and Daniel Downes

These majors are still relatively new, both modifications serve as general clean up with the goal of having the curriculum flow better. BA Games and Behavior will be changing the foundation Math requirement to the General Strand as there isn’t curriculum within the major that has moderate Math prerequisite. This will allow more students to complete the major and make it easier for transfer students to transition. There were only 3 GAME prefix classes when the Major was created so we are also trying to open up requirement groups to include an GAME prefix course instead of those 3. With BS Game Design and Development, we are breaking up what was a large block of core classes into smaller sections and supplementing those sections with additional GAME prefix courses that have been created since the major was first introduced. The advisement report also currently lists the minor as optional despite the fact that it is required for the majority of students to have enough units to meet new Gen Ed requirements.

**Q:** Could you explain what the term “ghosted” means in the context of this proposal? It is listed under CSC 210

**A:** It just means that CSC 210 will satisfy that requirement, but is not visible to students on the advisement report, usually because it is a class they can’t take due to not being a part of the program.

Dana Lema moved to approve. Paul Wagner seconded. Motion carried with 10 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstain.

**D. Modification: BS in Game Design and Development (SBS)**

Presented by Laura Owen, Catherine Brooks, and Daniel Downes

See previous item for details.

Dana Lema moved to approve. Lisa Rezende seconded. Motion carried with 10 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstain.

**E. New Major: BS Planetary Geoscience (Science)**

Presented by Jeff Andrews-Hanna

This has been an ongoing effort between the departments of Geosciences and Planetary Sciences to develop a real cross-departmental major. Planetary Science today is very heavily grounded in Geosciences. These two departments have been pillars of the University for quite some time. There has not yet been a planetary major. The essence of the major will be to cover all the bases needed and tailor students’ education to the branch of planetary science they will most be interested in. The major offers 3 advanced emphases as well as an opportunity for field research as well as a tutorial and capstone. In terms of overall revenue, we are primarily working within already existing resources that the departments have access to. We will be adding additional TA support, and have budgeted for an academic advisor and admin support. We expect these expenses to be made up for in revenue generated from student enrollment. We feel that this major will be attractive to potential students.

**Q:** Have you looked at any other similar degree programs offered at other universities to gauge what your enrollments might look like?

**A:** There really aren’t many programs that are quite comparable. It is a very unique program that makes it difficult to gauge enrollment. In ASU the planetary science is much more wrapped up in an earth centric curriculum, a lot of times you will see the planetary science programs wrapped up in astronomy programs as well. We are looking at things like the Planetary Science minor to gauge interest as it is one of the few options available to students with interest in that field.

**Q:** In terms of interdependency of the classes and prerequisites, are students going to be able to understand what pathways they will be able to move through? Or will they become dependent on those earlier prerequisites.

**A:** There is quite a bit of flexibility, we have designed our 400 level planetary science classes have been designed to be accessible to a very wide range of students. Because of that, there is not a very strong prerequisite structure, though guiding the students in terms of which direction they should take for their interest is something we will do a lot of. One of our new classes, PTYS 270, is a newly developed and launched class that provides a survey for the field and is a launching point for our program as a whole.

Lisa Rezende moved to approve. Pat Yango seconded. Motion carried with 10 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstain.

**F. New Major: BSBA Business Analytics (Eller)**

Committee expresses concern over measurability of the learning outcomes and feels their current state indicates they have not been run through the assessment office.

Presented by Jayanthi Sunder and Anne Pagel

In the Eller portfolio of majors, we would like to add a new Business Analytics major to the Eller BSBA (BS in Business Administration) degree. More and more, businesses are becoming digitized, data is a very important asset. We feel our students need the skills required to bring their business knowledge and understand the tools to analyze that data and provide solutions to the business problems in their areas. This major would be offered to Eller students, they will do the same lower division foundation courses, as well as the core classes that all the other business majors do. This will give them a breadth of knowledge of all the functional areas of business. We will then layer the skills they will need to analyze data, manage datasets, learn programs and software commonly used and learn communication and data visualization skills as well. ASU already has 400 students in their Business Analytics majors and NAU is believed to be starting their own in Fall of 2023. We did an informal survey of our pre-business sophomores, a little over 10% of the students listed the Business Analytics major as their first choice while 2/3ds of the students listed it among their top 3. We believe the market is looking for these skills and would like to fill that gap in the market.

**Q:** Regarding the curriculum map and assessment of the program, a lot of the work looks at direct measures (projects, exams, homework), but what about indirect measures? Will there be survey offered at some point in the program? How do you plan on assessing the whole program and making sure the learning outcomes fulfill the competencies needed?

**A:** We thought of this as another BSBA major, meaning it would follow a lot of the same format. We have some indirect measures currently in place that will roll over to this major but are not currently explicitly stated to be present. We also have a cohort advisory board were we bring in students going through their first semester of upper division courses in to give feedback. We also have a “Be Heard Week” were we go into classes with the purpose of gathering as much feedback from students as possible. This feedback is used to determine what areas of the college should be invested in.

**Q:** As I understand, the Eller Admissions process is currently going through a revamp, will this new degree program differ from how it currently stands where students are declared as business management and then need to earn a certain number of prerequisites to declare into a different degree program based on perceived competition. Where do you feel this new degree program will fall in that range of difficulty?

**A:** For those who do not know, previously Eller had students in pre-business for the first two years before participating in an professional admissions process to be accepted into Eller for Upper division courses. Starting Fall 2023 we will have a direct admit model, meaning every student that comes in is admitted to Eller under the Management major to complete their lower division courses. Once those courses are completed they will go through professional admissions and have the opportunity to apply to the major of their choice. We have not yet mentioned this major to incoming students due to ABOR restrictions on promoting programs before they’re approved, but I suspect it will be very popular and thus competitive for students hoping to get in.

Committee agrees to conditionally approve the proposal contingent on improvements made to learning outcomes as well as an approval note from OIA.

Moe Momayez moved to approve. Melissa Goldsmith seconded. Motion carried with 10 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstain.

1. New Business / Discussion Items

**A. Create a DEI Working Group? Volunteers Needed.**

We don’t typically have time to cover DEI related issues that come up in sub-committee, we are hoping to create a working group of volunteers to gather information and investigate or reach out to DEI groups on campus so that we can incorporate some of that into the proposal process if possible. We will ask if anyone from the Curriculum and Policies subcommittee would like to join as well.

Volunteers:

Pat Yango

Allison Lee

Holly Nelson

1. Holly Nelson adjourned the meeting at 4:43pm

*Respectfully prepared by Frederick Lewis*