# Academic Programs Subcommittee Meeting Minutes January 10th, 2023

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

**Non-voting members present:** Katelyn Baker, Thomas Christiano, Kelly Jackson, Sarah Kimball, Melanie Madden, Ashley Munro, Frederick Lewis, Caleb Simmons

**Voting members absent:** Melissa Goldsmith

1. Holly Nelson called the meeting to order at 3:31 PM with a quorum of 7 voting members at the

vote of members present.

1. Approval of November 29th, 2022, Minutes

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

1. New Action Items

**A. New Minor: Bioethics (SBS)**

Presented by Thomas Christiano and Sarah Kimball.

The Bioethics minor can make a major contribution to the University of Arizona. Philosophy could be a great venue as the issues in bioethics often relate to philosophical concepts. The bioethics course we offer are among our most popular. A number of other departments we have spoken to including the colleges of medicine, science, agriculture and ArizonaOnline have expressed interest and excitement in this offering. We have the ability and capacity to teach the course for this minor.

**Q:** There is a letter of support from the college of medicine missing.

**A:** The college is still working on identifying an instructor to teach the course and thus has not been able to commit yet.

**Q:** It feels very medical focus, are you reaching out and establishing relationships with other departments such as the Environmental department?

**A:** We plan to develop the program into a larger one in the future that would include other issues such as environmental ethics, however at this point that remains as an elective course.

Paul Wagner moved to approve. Pat Yango seconded. Motion carried with 9 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstain.

**B. New Certificate: Weight Inclusive Health (CALS)**

Presented by Kelly Jackson, Ashley Munro, and Katelyn Barker

The Weight Inclusive Health undergrad minor and certificate are both being proposed. Target audiences differ as the certificate is targeted towards non-degree seeking students while the minor is only intended for degree-seeking students. Both the minor and certificate center around three core courses that establish a framework of weight inclusive approaches to healthcare and will allow our undergraduate students to be prepared for jobs and careers in the wellness profession. Additionally, students will have 9 units worth of electives available to them. We are excited to offer this as it’s not a program that is intentionally offered at other universities despite discussion and desire being expressed. We have been contacted about this often as this is model other universities are looking to for guidance in implementing their own programs. These two programs are meant to fill a gap and a need among our students as well as healthcare professions. We hope that we can collaborate with other units on campus in the future, but we have had to mostly rely on creating our own courses due to the lack of existing courses similar enough to be pulled into the program.

**Q:** It looks like in the calculations for one of your budgets, you did 11 credits instead of 12, however the budgets stay the same across both proposals. Is this just an error? Second, the minor proposal states, “minor course work may not double dip with another minor”, is there an issue with a minor to a major that may be associated with this?

**A:** Regarding the double dipping, we were trying to be as liberal as possible while following guidelines, I don’t think we included a section regarding students double dipping into a major, however this was most likely just an oversight, we would like to allow as much double dipping as we can without violating university policy. Regarding the budget, I believe that was related to the resources needed for the minor and the certificate being the same, which lead to the budgets looking identical.

**Q:** The number of students you’re expecting and the faculty requirements you have listed can be the same, but the calculation will be different as for each student it will either be 12 or 18 credits, so you would need to modify the calculation based on that. This would actually be beneficial to you as it will bring more money into the programs.

**Q:** With the degree of stigma that is noted in medical settings around weight, this could be a really interesting opportunity to collect some data on the individuals that are interested in minor or certificate.

**A:** For one of our first courses, we have received IRB approval to collect data. We are planning on collecting data because this is so new. We want to look at the efficacy of the curriculum and the long-term impacts of the students. These are long-term goals that we hope to get to in the future.

Dana Lema moved to approve. Lisa Rezende seconded. Motion carried with 9 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstain.

**C. New Minor: Weight Inclusive Health (CALS)**

Presented by Kelly Jackson, Ashley Munro, and Katelyn Barker

See previous item for details.

Paul Wagner moved to approve. Shujuan Li seconded. Motion carried with 9 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstain.

**D. New Emphases: Interdisciplinary Studies BA (Humanities)**

Presented by Caleb Simmons.

This program was formerly known as general studies, often characterized as the completion degree for the University of Arizona. As such, right now it issues both BGS and BIS degrees, once we have everyone finish in the BGS program, we will transition to exclusively BIS. When first taking over, the first thing I did was send a survey out to alumni and current students about the strengths and weakness program, two biggest concerns raised by alumni where the name of the degree and not feeling confident in the degree we applying to jobs. Certain job sides would ask “do you have a BA/BS, a Master’s or a PHD?”, not specifically spelling out bachelors and making students feel as if they were being dishonest by selecting “BA/BS”. In interviews some employers would not consider the student’s degree a BA. We are bringing this degree over from the old college of liberal arts and sciences and were lucky enough to receive it right before It was about to be phased out. We hope that these proposals will help with student success. This is not an attempt to make this not the completion degree, instead, looking at student feedback, we have reviewed how many students since 2017 would have been eligible for a BA, with the main difference being the language proficiency. 21% of our students would have been eligible for a BA, not including all the other things that go into those language proficiencies such as AP credit, native proficiency, other proficiencies, and CLEP. We estimate, given a broader body of students, it would be closer to 50%. If students are going on that path and meeting that criterion, we want to give them the option to opt into that BA.

**Q:** Regarding the emphases request form, there are two new emphases listed, in “Global and Intercultural Understanding” and “Social Behavior and Human Understanding”. Based on these courses I am curious if there are any opportunities for cross-listings within other departments such as Africana Studies, APA Studies, or Mexican American Studies?

**A:** The actual courses listed are a small sampling, Interdisciplinary Studies is very different from other departments. All the courses that are offered in any of the emphases are all external courses minus our introductory courses. I reached out to the other Departments annually to ask if they have courses they believe would fit. We really hope to offer our students the broadest possible approach to completion. If you know of any new courses that would fit, please email me or connect me with the department.

**Q:** How are these degrees usually handled at other universities?

**A:** I unfortunately do not have that right in front of me, however, I do know that more of our peers than not have the BA. I would say the ratio is about 60 / 40. There is quite a bit of variation between our state peers and our ABOR defined peers.

Pat Yango moved to approve. Lisa Rezende seconded. Motion carried with 9 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstain.

**E. Modification: Interdisciplinary Studies BA (Humanities)**

Presented by Caleb Simmons.

See previous item for details.

Jennifer Donahue moved to approve. Lisa Rezende seconded. Motion carried with 9 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstain.

1. New Discussion Items

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

This is a carryover of the previous proposal from Engineering. It looks like they have sent a memo to the College of Science, but have not yet received a response.

Vote will be done via email.

**B. Request to increase the number of proposals handled by the Committee each month.**

This Issue has already been brought to the new chair of UGC, Claudia Stanescu. There is a desire for Curricular Affairs to stop limiting the number of proposals that are passed on to the committee. Historically, Curricular Affairs has limited the number of proposals that were given each month in consideration of the amount of time given in meetings, the amount of time we have to review proposals thoroughly, as well as considerations towards advising and other departments that have to make significant adjustment to proposals upon approval. The request is that we no longer have a limit, which would mean in February we would potentially have 9 proposals instead of our regular 5. Any comments, questions, or concerns and general feedback from the committee?

Committee notes that meetings typically last the full time allotted and that increasing proposal load would risk having the meetings extend into the evening hours. This would be a problem for members who have family they must care for. Additionally, discussion being had with proposers would likely be cut short and not reach its full conclusion which would not be fair to those presenting. The change could potentially stifle input from members who have prior commitments after the scheduled ending time of 5pm (ex. Student representatives with evening class). Outside of meetings, the time to review proposals would increase significantly. Proposals often take a significant amount of time to review thoroughly, overwhelming committee members would only result in the risk of proposals not being reviewed in full. This request is coming in the middle of the year and conflicts with the expectations given to members of the committee upon their volunteering. Curricular Affairs notes that the committee could change procedurally to only invite guests for presentations and QA if there are concerns over the proposals, however for that to work, CA would need to be getting the proposals to committee members early than usual. Committee acknowledges that the type of proposals being review does often change how much time is needed for review.

Committee will move forward with the assumption that the 6 proposals in the box currently will be reviewed in February. Holly requests that committee members record and submit the amount of time it typically takes to review proposals each month.

**C. Offering Resources to Proposers that Highlight DEI Issues**

Committee member notes that they recently sent an email with a resource that they believe would be beneficial to proposers that would have them analyze the impacts of their changes or new program on DEI specific issues. I find it helpful when proposals have sections that outlines things like racial demographics and how cross-cultural competency metrics are being included. I think it would be helpful if this was made more universal. It could either be a requirement, or a resource that would guide the drafting of the proposal. The resource would help proposers to consider things like what the current demographics of their enrollment are and how these changes would affect that, how retention will be encouraged if a GPA requirement is being raises etc. Committee member would like proposers to have answers to those questions before they come to present. Committee member is not sure on how the change could propose this change, but it was a suggestion they had.

Suggestion will be included in the Agenda for the Undergraduate Council meeting if time permits.

1. Holly Nelson adjourned the meeting at 4:23pm

*Respectfully prepared by Frederick Lewis*