***Academic Program Subcommittee Minutes***

***September 24, 2024***

**Voting members present**: Jennifer Schnellmann, Lisa Rezende, Allison Lee, Dana Lema, Michael McKisson, Melissa Goldsmith, Moe Momayez.

**Non-voting members present**: Melanie Madden, Nicole Kontak, Bryanna Andrade

1. **Lisa Rezende called meeting to order at 3:31 pm.**
2. **Approval of the**[**August 20th, 2024, meeting minutes**](https://academicadmin.arizona.edu/sites/default/files/2024-09/APS-Minutes_08202024.docx)
   1. Dana Lema motioned to approve; Melissa Goldsmith seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.
3. **New Actins Items**
   1. [**Modification: Cyber Operations (CAST)**](https://academicadmin.arizona.edu/sites/default/files/2024-09/Substantial-Change-Request-Cyber-Ops-Minor-F2025-Signed.pdf) **by Nicole Kontak**
      1. The key point is that CAST had never offered 200-level courses before. When we first proposed the Cyber Operations minor, we knew it would be implemented on the main campus, which was a significant milestone for us. We also planned to admit freshmen students, so this fall was an important period. When we resubmitted the Cyber Operations minor, it was clear that it would be offered to main-campus students. However, at that point, we had not yet created 200-level courses. This change allows us to incorporate more entry-level principles in cyber, rather than limiting the minor to upper-division coursework. The goal is to provide introductory skills to students from various majors who might be interested in adding the minor. This substantial modification makes the program more balanced and accessible to a wider range of students.

Q: I'm wondering why the existing curriculum required students to take Cyber Ethics, but no Cyber Ethics course is required in the proposed modified version. Why is that?

A: The change is based on the three lower-division courses we decided to include, which are more skills-based. We wanted to focus on providing students with offensive and defensive skills rather than emphasizing ethics or theory. Our approach is centered on practical skills, unlike the major, which offers both offensive and defensive skills along with ethics and the supporting theoretical framework.

Michael Mckisson motioned to approve. Dana Lema seconded. Motion carries unanimously with 7 yeas.

* 1. [**Modification: American Indian Studies (SBS)**](https://academicadmin.arizona.edu/sites/default/files/2024-09/Modification_BA-in-American-Indian-Studies.pdf)
     1. We formed this idea through conversations about how to solve a few challenges we've been having since we began our BA degree in 2015. Because our major is a relatively small one, thus far we have had difficulty regularly offering a senior capstone experience for students (which was included in the original design for our major), especially given our obligation to meet the college's minimum enrollment numbers. Several years ago, we removed the senior capstone from the list of required courses for the major to ensure that students had a clear path to completing the degree in a timely way. However, this change created a new problem: the senior capstone course was linked to our final program exit assessment. Since removing the senior capstone, we have been unable to collect assessment data for graduating students consistently.

Q: I am wondering why the name of the major is American Indian Studies Major and not Native American Studies? I notice that several of the newly proposed courses such as Indigenous Knowledge and Indigenous Thinkers use these other terms.

A: AIS was selected as the name of the degree when the MA was established in 1982 (the first graduate program in the world in our field). Of course this long predates our move into SBS, as well as my time in the program, so I can't speak to reasons given for the decision to choose "AIS" at the time. Our discipline generally regards all of the generic terms (i.e. "American Indian" and "Native American") equally problematic although each for different reasons. Several times during the past twenty years or so conversations about the name have come up, with some faculty wishing to change to the broader and more inclusive term "Indigenous." However, some faculty rightly argue that what continues to set us apart from some peer programs is that the majority of our courses focus on North America--which would make using the name "Indigenous" in our degree name somewhat problematic and even disingenuous due to the international connotation of that term in our field. It is a particularly sensitive topic within our department and in our broader field. As you've noticed, though, in some of our newer courses, where appropriate for the specific content of the course, we are beginning to use "Indigenous" in some course titles.

Q: The modified major has added the requirement “Present at the annual department student showcase.”

* + - Is this a one-time requirement or every year?
      * We will host the AIS Student Showcase every spring. While the showcase would be open to any AIS major who would like to present their research, presenting at the showcase would be a one-time requirement for graduating seniors in their final year.
    - Do they need to present their work to meet the requirement, or can they meet the requirement by attending the showcase?
      * Seniors would need to present their work to meet the requirements. (This presentation will afford an important program assessment opportunity for students at the end of their time in the program.)
    - Is there an option to meet the requirement for students who are unable to attend due to work or other class obligations?
      * If a student absolutely cannot attend the Student Showcase for some reason, then we would work with students to complete the presentation another way. For example, one option is that the presentation could be videotaped in advance and shown at the Student Showcase.

Michael Mckisson motioned to approve. Allison Lee seconded. Motion carried unanimously with 7 yeas.

1. **Discussion Item**
   1. **Opening Subcommittee proposal presentations of the meeting to Senators and Associate Deans/UCAAC members.**
      1. The committee is concerned about the lack of privacy and the freedom to ask questions openly. They want to feel comfortable engaging with the proposer and be able to answer questions freely, without feeling restricted. They have decided not to share the committee videos and will continue with the current approach. The meeting minutes should be sufficient for anyone with questions or concerns and can always be modified if needed.
2. **Meeting adjourned at 4:25 pm**

*Respectfully prepared by Bryanna Andrade*