Educational Policies Committee Minutes, March 1, 2012

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EDUCATIONAL POLICIES COMMITTEE MINUTES
1 March 2012

A meeting of the Educational Policies Committee was held on 1 March 2012 at 3 p.m. in Old Main 136 (Champ Hall Conference Room)

Present: Larry Smith, Chair
Ed Reeve, Curriculum Subcommittee Chair, Engineering
Richard Mueller, Academic Standards Subcommittee Chair, Science
Norm Jones, General Education Subcommittee Chair
Brian Warnick, College of Agriculture
Maureen Hearns, Caine College of the Arts (representing Cory Evans)
Stacey Hills, Huntsman School of Business
Scott Bates, Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services
Nancy Mesner, College of Natural Resources
Keith Grant-Davie, Graduate Council
Travis Peterson, Regional Campuses and Distance Education
Susan Neel, USU-Eastern
Roland Squire, Registrar’s Office
Cathy Gerber, Registrar’s Office

Absent: Eddy Berry, College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Wendy Holliday, Libraries
Erik Mikkelson, ASUSU President
Tanner Wright, Academic Senate President
Cami Jones, Graduate Studies Vice-President

Visitors: Noelle Cockett, Dean, College of Agriculture
Kurt Becker, Department Head, Engineering Education
Michele Hillard, Provost Office

I. Approval of the minutes of the 2 February 2012 meeting
Richard Mueller moved to approve the minutes of the 2 February 2012 meeting. Brian Warnick seconded; motion approved.

II. Subcommittee Reports

A. Curriculum Subcommittee (Ed Reeve)

Ed Reeve reviewed the Curriculum Subcommittee business.

All courses were approved.

The request from the College of Agriculture and the College of Natural Resources to create a Sustainable Systems Minor was approved pending minor changes. The revised request will be sent to Larry Smith.

Stacey Hills moved to approve the business of the Curriculum Subcommittee. Scott Bates seconded; motion approved.
B. Academic Standards Subcommittee (Richard Mueller)

February 23, 2012
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Champ Hall Conference Room

Present: Stephanie Hamblin, Scott Bates, Richard Mueller, Michele Hillard, Stacey Hills, Roland Squire, John Barton

Absent: Tanner Wright, Eddy Berry

Call to Order - Richard Mueller

Approval of Minutes

Business

Pre-Requisite Enforcement – APPROVED.
Motion carried by Roland Squire; seconded by Scott Bates.
A draft policy to enforce prerequisites will be written and distributed to the committee for wording approval.

Adjourned: 2:45 pm

Next Meeting
Thursday, March 22, 2012 Champ Hall Conference Room
2:00 pm

Norm Jones moved to approve the business of the Academic Standards Subcommittee. Nancy Mesner seconded; motion approved.
C. General Education Subcommittee (Norm Jones)

GENERAL EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

February 21, 2012 8:30 A.M.
Champ Hall Conference Room
Present: Christie Fox, Honors; Dick Mueller, Science; Kathy Chudoba , Business; Norm Jones, Chair;

Susan Neel, USU Eastern; Michele Hillard, Secretary; Carolyn Cárdenas, Creative Arts; Wendy Holliday, Library; Nancy Mesner, Natural Resources; Charlie Huenemann, CHaSS; Brock Dethier, CHaSS; Rhonda Miller, Communications; John Mortensen, Registrar’s Office; Roberta Herzberg, Social Sciences; Erik Mikkelsen, ASUSU President; Ryan Dupont, Life & Physical Sciences; Brian McCuskey, English; Stephanie Hamblin, University Advising; Cindy Dewey, Music; Susie Parkinson for Mary Leavitt, Advising; Vince Lafferty, Regional Campuses;

Absent: Janet Anderson, Agriculture; Craig Petersen, American Institutions; Larry Smith, Provost’s Office; Travis Peterson, RCDE; Dan Coster, Quantitative Intensive; Wynn Walker, Engineering;

Call to Order - Norm Jones

Approval of Minutes - January 17, 2012 – APPROVED.
Motion made by Erik Mikkelsen, seconded by Brian McCuskey.

Course Approvals
ARTH 3840 (CI) APPROVED ................................................................. Rhonda Miller
Motion made by Rhonda Miller, seconded by Carolyn Cárdenas

ARTH 4520 (CI) APPROVED ................................................................. Rhonda Miller
Motion made by Rhonda Miller, seconded by Carolyn Cárdenas

AV 3720 (CI) PENDING ................................................................. Rhonda Miller
Awaiting revisions

Course Removals
N/A

Syllabi Approvals
Honors 1320 (BHU) Carol McNamara APPROVED .................................................. Brian McCuskey
Motion made by Brian McCuskey, seconded by Wendy Holliday

USU 1340 (BSS) David Cassidy/Susan Neel APPROVED .................................................. Roberta Herzberg
Motion made by Roberta Herzberg, seconded by Rhonda Miller

USU 1300 (BAI) Michael Petersen APPROVED .................................................. Craig Petersen
Motion made by Rhonda Miller, seconded by Roberta Herzberg

Business
Update on proposed USU 1370/3070 ................................................................. Christie Fox
It was moved that the Committee should request approval for the creation of a USU 3070 course. Motion made by Brian McCuskey, seconded by Carolyn Cárdenas. The motion carried.

Christie provided an example of what the syllabi might look like so that everyone could get a sense for how the course would be taught. The question was raised as to who would determine if the designations are met and/or fulfilled - do they pass through the individual field committees or does the Gen Ed committee make that determination? It was decided that reviews of syllabi could be run in parallel, through the appropriate subcommittees, rather than individually. The committees will have to have some flexibility; they can raise concerns but shouldn’t be expected to be all things for all people. The question was asked if there would be prerequisites for these courses. It was decided that students should have completed all their Gen Ed courses. Catalog text will be needed for the course approval form, and information about creating these courses must be added to the Gen Ed Website. Language will be drafted and circulated by Norm to the Gen Ed committee.

Report on USU 1360 faculty meeting

Faculty teaching USU 1360 were invited to meet and discuss their common outcomes for the course. They agree that they are teaching common outcomes. There was a strong consensus that students should complete the QL requirement before they take USU 1360. The conversations will continue and a follow up meeting has been scheduled. The Library is interested in being included in these conversations to ensure that information literacy components are included.

Review of Depth Courses

Nancy Mesner raised a concern about depth classes. It was recommended that a process to review depth requirements be initiated. An ad hoc subcommittee consisting of the following individuals will work on this project: Nancy Mesner, Brian McCuskey, Cindy Dewey and Wendy Holliday. They will be prepared to discuss at next month’s meeting.

Other Business

Next Meeting
Tuesday, March 20, 2012 Champ Hall Conference Room
8:30 a.m.

Nancy Mesner moved to approve the business of the General Education Subcommittee. Stacey Hills seconded; motion approved.

III. Other Business

The request from the College of Engineering to create a Center for Engineering Education Research (CEER) was withdrawn from the agenda.

Meeting adjourned 4:00 p.m.
Larry Smith conducted the meeting.
Cathy Gerber recorded the minutes.
Institution Submitting Proposal: Utah State University

Colleges in Which Program/Administrative Unit Will Be Located: College of Agriculture and College of Natural Resources

Lead Departments in Which Program/Administrative Unit Will Be Located: Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning (LAEP) in the College of Agriculture and Department of Environment and Society (ENVS) in the College of Natural Resources

Program/Administrative Unit Title: Sustainable Systems Minor

Proposed Beginning Date: Fall Semester, 2012

Institutional Signatures:

Raymond T. Coward, Chief Academic Officer: ________________________________

Noelle Cockett, Dean, College of Agriculture: ________________________________

Sean Michael, Head, Department of LAEP: ________________________________

Chris Luecke, Interim Dean, College of Natural Resources: ____________________

Mark Brunson, Head, Department of ENVS: ________________________________
Section I: Request

The six departments in the College of Agriculture (ADVS, APEC, ASTE, LAEP, NDFS and PSC) and the three departments in the College of Natural Resources (ENVS, WILD, and WATS) request the creation of a Sustainable Systems Minor. A committee of nine faculty members developed the concept and requirements of the minor outlined herein. These requirements were then reviewed and agreed to by the faculty of the nine departments. Students in any University major can declare the Sustainable Systems Minor at any point in their undergraduate program or (more likely) when they submit their graduation paperwork. Diplomas of students meeting the requirements of the minor will include the title of their degree and “Sustainable Systems Minor.”

Students completing the minor will take 18 credits in six different areas (see Figure 1). Six of the credits are required of all students and covered in two 3-credit courses, specifically Foundations of Sustainable Systems, a lecture course, and Communicating Sustainability, a capstone course. A list of existing classes appropriate for the remaining four areas (Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Systems; Energy and Earth Systems; Water Systems; Social Systems) is provided as Appendix A. Students must take at least one course from each of the four areas. Additional courses appropriate for the four system areas may be developed, identified, or adapted after establishment of the minor.

Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning (LAEP) in COA and Environment and Society (ENVS) in CNR will serve as the lead departments. As lead departments, LAEP and ENVS will ensure that the required courses are available for students wishing to complete the minor or develop a plan for viable course substitutes that ensure that the goals of the minor are being met in any given year. In addition, LAEP and ENVS will be responsible for offering the required Foundations and Capstones courses, respectively (see below). Departments within COA or CNR will certify on the graduation application that a student within their department has successfully completed the requirements of the minor, whereas LAEP and ENVS will handle the graduation applications for students outside COA and CNR.

Section II: Need

For purposes of this minor, sustainability is defined according to the spirit of stewardship and inclusivity of the United Nation’s 1987 Brundtland Commission findings, which held that “sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” Thus, the Sustainable Systems minor will present concepts in sustainability that can be applied in a system approach, leading to resilience in society’s use of the earth’s land, water and air. In addition, the minor will prepare students to understand how to address the challenge of sustainability in ways that account for the interconnectedness of biological, physical, social and economic systems.

While five land-grant institutions in the western U.S. have established sustainability degrees, only three (Arizona State University, University of New Mexico, and University of Wyoming) offer minors in sustainability and only the latter two reside in a College of Agriculture and/or College of Natural Resources. Within Utah, the University of Utah markets two undergraduate degrees as “sustainability-related”: Civil and Environmental Engineering; and Environmental and Sustainability Studies. The latter is somewhat similar in structure to the USU Sustainability
Systems minor but emphasizes policy decisions on the environment and it is a degree program, not a minor. Westminster University and Weber State University have bachelor’s degrees in Environmental Studies, both of which are marketed as “undergraduate degrees in sustainability.” In contrast to those degrees, the USU degree specifically links sustainability to water, agricultural, or natural resource management systems – all of which are strengths of Utah State University.

At USU, the Environmental Studies degree in ENVS is designed to offer a broad introduction to human-environmental interactions and prepares students to understand biological, physical, social, and political aspects of natural resource problems and environmental issues. While graduates of the Environmental Studies degree will be able to deliver information to stakeholders on “living more sustainably”, the ENVS program is not specifically directed toward sustainability. USU also offers a minor in Climate Change and Energy administered by the Plants, Soils, and Climate Department in COA and includes some of the same courses as the proposed Sustainable Systems minor. However, the Sustainable Systems minor will incorporate sustainability into agricultural and water systems, and specifically require students to understand how sustainability can be applied to biological, physical, and social systems.

During the 2011 USU Spring Career Fair, representatives from 15 companies at the Career Fair were asked to respond on the desirability of students who graduated with a sustainability minor. All potential employers indicated their interest in graduates with this emphasis. In 2010-11, the College of Agriculture had 67 students enrolled in the Interdisciplinary Studies (ITDS) degree. Of those 67 students, 11% designed a program focused on sustainability. Students in several traditional programs in agriculture have also expressed their desire for stronger focus on sustainability to their academic advisors. A survey of 42 students enrolled in an introductory course entitled Professional Orientation for Environment and Society (ENVS 1990) in Fall 2011, found that 22 (52%) hoped to pursue careers related to sustainability in ways that link human and natural systems. This represents a significant shift from past years when most ENVS majors sought careers in land management or environmental protection.

In sum, Utah State University is providing an educational opportunity not currently available to undergraduate students in Utah and in the greater Mountain West. We estimate 20 to 25 students will graduate with the minor each year, with enrollment growing over time.

**Section III: Institutional Impact**

The addition of this minor to USU’s educational offering requires no change in administrative structure, no additional faculty, no new physical facilities, no modification or purchase of equipment, and no additional library support. Existing advisors in the Student Services offices of the Colleges of Agriculture and Natural Resources will handle the advising responsibilities of students requesting the minor. The two required courses (Foundations of Sustainable Systems and Communicating Sustainability) have been added to faculty assignments as part of the instructors’ teaching load.

**Section IV: Finances**

The availability of the minor is likely to have no to minimal impact on enrollment in the existing classes. Required courses are assigned as part of load within COA and CNR, with teaching assignments of the faculty involved in the courses adjusted appropriately. Elective courses have been designated because of their availability and appropriateness for inclusion in the minor. Thus, no new funding for this minor is requested.
Figure 1. Overview of the Proposed Sustainable Systems Minor

- **Sustainable Systems Minor** (18 credits)
  - **Foundations of Sustainability**
    - Common Intro. Course (Ecology, Planning, Systems Thinking)
  - **Overview courses** = 12 credits from currently existing courses (3 credits from each category)
    - **Agriculture, Food & Environmental Systems**
    - **Water Systems**
    - **Social Systems**
  - **Communicating Sustainability**
    - Common Capstone Course (Education, Communication, & Society)
  - **Energy Systems**

- **LAEP 2309: Common Intro. Course** = 3 cr.
- **ENVS 4700: Common Capstone course** = 3 credits. A project experience will be included.
APPENDIX A
Sustainable Systems Minor Requirements

Required Courses (6 credits)
- LAEP 2039 – Foundations of Sustainability (3 credits)
- ENVS 4700 – Communicating Sustainability (3 credits)

Agriculture, Food and Environmental Systems: Select 3 credits from the following:
- ADVS 5030 – Sustainable Agriculture Production Systems with Animals 3*
- ASTE 2900 – Humanity in the Food Web (BSS) 3
- ASTE 5260 – Environmental Impacts of Agricultural Systems (CI) 3
- NDFS 1240 – Food Literacy 3
- PSC 2800 – Fundamentals of Organic Agriculture 3
- PSC 4400 – Modern Vegetable Production 3*
- PSC 5200 – Site-Specific Agriculture and Landscape/Horticulture Management 3
- WATS 1200 – Biodiversity and Sustainability (BLS) 3
- WILD 2200 – Ecology of our Changing World (BLS) 3

Energy and Earth Systems: Select 3 credits from the following:
- GEO/PHYS 3150 – Energy in the 21st Century (DSC/QI) 3*
- LAEP 1030 – Introduction to Landscape Architecture (BCA) 3
- PHYS 1020 – Energy (BPS) 3
- PSC 3820 – Climate Change (DSC/QI) 3*
- PSC 4820 – Challenges in Climate Change and Energy 3*

Water Systems: Select 3 credits from the following:
- PSC 2010 – Soils, Water, and the Environment (BPS) 3
- PSC 4000 – Soil and Water Conservation 4
- PSC 4100 – Landscape Water Conservation 2
- WATS 3700 – Fundamentals of Watershed Science (CI) 3
- WATS 4490 – Small Watershed Hydrology 4*
- WATS 4530 – Water Quality and Pollution 3

Social Systems: Select 3 credits from the following:
- APEC 3012 – Introduction to Natural Resource and Regional Economics (DSS) 3
- ENVS 3010 – Fundamentals of Natural Resource and Environmental Policy 3
- ENVS 3330 – Environment and Society 3
- ENVS 5550 – Sustainability: Concepts and Measurement 3
- ENVS 5570 – Sustainable Living 3
- PHIL 3510 – Environmental Ethics (DHA) 3
- SOC 4620 – Sociology of the Environment and Natural Resources (DSS) 3
- SOC/ENVS 5640/6640 – Conflict Management in Natural Resources (CI) 3

* Prerequisite or Course Restriction

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