College of the Environment Curriculum Committee
Meeting Minutes for January 23, 2020
12:00 – 1:30 PM, Ocean Sciences Building, Room 203 (Dean’s Office conference room)

Present:
- Aquatic & Fishery Sciences – Luke Tornabene
- Atmospheric Sciences – Greg Hakim & Cecilia Bitz
- Erath & Space Sciences – Bruce Nelson (Zoom)
- Environmental and Forest Sciences – Clare Ryan
- Friday Harbor Labs – Megan Dethier (Zoom)
- Marine Biology – Kerry Naish
- Marine & Environmental Affairs – Nives Dolsak
- Program on the Environment – Kristi Straus
- Oceanography – Mikelle Nuwer
- Graduate Student Representatives – Robin McLachlan (Oceanography)
- Undergraduate Student Representatives – Emily Busse (Environmental Studies)
- Director of Student & Academic Services (ex officio: committee staff) – Michelle Hall
- Guest: Wolf Latsch, Director, UW Study Abroad, Office of Global Affairs

1. Wolf Latsch, Director, UW Study Abroad, Office of Global Affairs, shared information on the [process for proposing new study abroad programs](#) and ideas for expanding study abroad opportunities within the College of the Environment. Study Abroad office key goals include:
   - Increase access to study abroad and attract more diverse demographics, especially first generation, URM, and students in highly structured STEM majors; remove as many financial barriers for students as possible (UW awards $1 million annually to reduce participant financial barriers).
   - Improve student perception of study abroad, with emphasis on study abroad as an academic enterprise (even though most students are not completing study abroad solely to meet major requirements).
   - Increase faculty participation in study abroad; critical to have faculty to advise on program development, to take students abroad for variety of period lengths, and to get their units involved and make curricular and advising connections.

Latsch noted that:
- UW’s line-up of faculty led programs is one of the largest in the country, with 100+ programs last year.
- Faculty have options: program lengths range from 10-week quarters, to 4- or 8-week summer terms, to 3-week early fall start.
- Most students study abroad either in summer or early fall.
- Last year 89 CoEnv students studied abroad.
- UW maintains a credit equivalency database to track study abroad course equivalency approvals.
- August 2020 is the deadline for proposals for 2021-22 academic.
- All faculty welcome to contact Wolf to discuss ideas for new programs.

**ACTION:**
- Please share this information at your curriculum committee or faculty meetings
• Latsch will follow-up with an email inviting units / individual faculty to meet with him to discuss program ideas.

2. Nives Dolsak presented a proposed new course from the School of Marine Affairs, noting that it was created in response to a Dean’s Office request for more nonmajor courses and to add a course offering focused on solutions to complement existing climate science courses in the college:
   • SMEA / ENVIR 201 “Climate Change Solutions: Actors and Approaches”
     https://uw.kuali.co/cm/#/courses/view/5e18cc0c656ac82500f26bf1

The committee suggested the following revisions, and recommended that potential instructors for this course and the proposed ATMS 201 course meet to discuss strategies for distinguishing the two courses from one another with distinct titles, course numbers, quarters offered, learning objectives and topics:
   • Add the ENVIR 201 co-list: in “Curricular Relationships” section, enter ENVIR 201 under “Offered Jointly With” (click on the plus sign to open boxes for curriculum abbreviation and number), and select Program on the Environment from the list under “Jointly Offered Course Departments.”
   • Consider adopting a more typical lecture/quiz section schedule (e.g., lecture 3X/week with one 2-hour discussion section) and scheduling it outside of prime time (before 11:00 AM or after 2:00 PM).
   • In the “Activities and Hours” section of the proposal, fill in the non-instructional hours section with 10 hours.
   • Consider incorporating “policy solutions” into the title to distinguish the types of solutions covered from physical/technological solutions.
   • In the syllabus on page 2 in the section on devices needed to access Poll Everywhere, include a link to the UW Student Technology Loan Program.
   • Include the Religious Accommodation Policy in the syllabus, and update the Disability Accommodation policy with the current Disability Resources for Students (DRS) office title.
   • For the group project worth 30%, consider grading partly on the group deliverable and partly on peer and self-evaluations so that not everyone gets same grade.
   • Add potentially affected units: Program on the Environment, Atmospheric Sciences, Earth and Space Sciences, and Oceanography.

ACTION:
   • Collaborate with Atmospheric Sciences faculty to revise the course proposal to differentiate the two courses with distinct titles, short titles, numbers, quarters offered and topics covered.

3. Cecilia Bitz presented a proposed new course from the Department of Atmospheric Sciences, also noting that it was created in response to Dean’s Office request for more nonmajor courses and in response to student feedback requesting courses focused on solutions to complement existing ATMS 111 and ATM S 211 climate science courses:
   • ATM S 201 “Solving the Climate Crisis for All with 100% Clean Energy”
     https://uw.kuali.co/cm/#/courses/view/5e1950d3dd298a250051a2ce
The committee suggested the following revisions, and recommended that potential instructors for this course and the proposed SMEA/ENVIR 201 course meet to discuss strategies for distinguishing the two courses from one another with distinct titles, course numbers, quarters offered, learning objectives and topics:

- Consider reducing or refining the policy content to further differentiate the course from the proposed SMEA 201 course.
- Consider emphasizing mitigation topics more.
- Having “clean energy” in title implies that topic is the main focus of course; make sure the title clearly reflects course content.
- In the “Justification” section of the course proposal, note the course is designed for non-majors (“service” course may not clearly indicate that).
- Include the Religious Accommodation Policy in the syllabus.
- Add potentially affected units: Marine and Environmental Affairs, Program on the Environment (which offers ENVIR 439 “Attaining a Sustainable Society,” with some similar content), Earth and Space Sciences, and Oceanography.

**ACTION:**

- Collaborate with Marine and Environmental Affairs faculty to revise the course proposal to differentiate the two courses with distinct titles, short titles, numbers, quarters offered and topics covered.

4. Megan Dethier presented a proposed new course from Friday Harbor Laboratories, and the committee approved the proposal pending final revisions:

- FHL 444 “Special Topics in Natural Science”
  
https://uw.kuali.co/cm/#/courses/view/5dd1858dfef6e12400d6e9cf

- The committee suggested changing the course number to something more similar to special topics numbers in departments, typically between 470 and 495, perhaps FHL 495.
- Remove “recommended preparation” from the course proposal, and any other details that are specific to the data science course, as the special topics number will serve as a “shell” used to offer a range of courses in the future.
- In the “Activities and Hours” section of the proposal, consider moving the 1 “other” under “quiz section,” since the reference to 1 “other” hour is specific to the data science offering.
- In the syllabus, under “Assignments and grading,” consider re-wording the first sentence (“... project-based centered around a set of three...”), which is confusing.
- Consider adding a learning objective specific to python programming.
- Add Marine Biology as an affected unit (but the Marine Biology curriculum committee does not need to review the proposal).

**ACTION:**

- Hall will send the proposal back in the Curriculum Management system for revisions.

5. Kristi Straus presented a proposed distance learning course designation from Program on the Environment, and the committee approved the proposal with no requested revisions:

- ENVIR 100 “Introduction to Environmental Studies”
6. Michelle Hall and Kristi Straus shared a request for suggestions for courses to add to the proposed new Minor in Leadership Studies approved elective course list.

**ACTION:**
- Hall will send an email request for suggested courses to the committee.

7. Meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.