College of the Environment Curriculum Committee  
Meeting Agenda for December 7  
11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Present, via Zoom:  
- Greg Hakim  
- Bruce Nelson  
- Kerry Naish  
- Mikelle Nuwer  
- Mason Wiley  
- Jessica Goulet  
- Noell Bernard-Kingsley  
- Taylor Gantz  
- Rosalind Echols  
- Sergey Rabotyagov  
- Sunny Jardine  
- Kristi Straus  
- Michelle Hall  
- Jane Dolliver

1. Proposed new Graduate Data Science option, Earth & Space Sciences (Bruce Nelson, 20 minutes)

Summary of proposal: ESS faculty have always had funded projects with large datasets, especially the PNW seismic station coordination team. ESS used the ATM S data science option as a model. The attached document was reviewed by the ESS curriculum committee and Chris Partridge (Grad School); now it receives College Curriculum Committee feedback and then goes back to the Graduate School. ESS would like to submit ASAP, as there are graduate students graduating next quarter who wish to receive the transcript able data science option.

The committee approved the proposal pending final revisions:
- Add frequency of oversight committee options, review process, all listed people will attend every time? (e.g., 1/year, maybe 2x/year at the beginning).
- ESS data science experts should strongly consider course suggestions from SEFS (Sergey and Taylor will provide)
- Review offerings of listed courses (e.g., SEFS 564 has very limited offerings).

**ACTION:** Nelson will work with Hall to secure Dean signature and submit final paperwork to the Graduate School.

2. Proposed new course from Friday Harbor Laboratories (Mason Wiley, 15 minutes):
   FHL 568 “Advanced Topics in Ecology and Biomechanics”  
   [https://uw.kuali.co/cm/#/courses/view/6196cbf79a5c8e3c3476a6b6](https://uw.kuali.co/cm/#/courses/view/6196cbf79a5c8e3c3476a6b6)
Summary of proposal: Undergraduate Advanced Topics courses include “marine subtidal ecology” and “ecology of marine birds and mammals.” “Advanced Topics in Ecology and Biomechanics” was designated as 468 but FHL needs to offer a graduate version (FHL 568).

The committee approved the proposal pending final revisions:

- Consider whether it would be more efficient to offer this as a parallel course with the existing FHL 468. See this quick guide on proposing parallel courses: [https://registrar.washington.edu/curriculum/guides/parallel-courses/](https://registrar.washington.edu/curriculum/guides/parallel-courses/)
- Consider adding in the “Justification” section of the proposal information on the FHL process for reviewing new courses under the “Advanced Topics” course number.
- Consider adding more information on the “class participation” rules and how this will be assessed.
- In the course description: Reword the last sentence of the course description to clarify: “Course topics will change year to year but will always focus on the above topics.” Delete “This course....” and start the sentence with “Introduces...” to comply with UW course catalog style.
- Consider creating a set of learning objectives that are the same every time this course is offered (e.g., these 3 learning objectives are the same, these 3 are unique to this offering of the course.)
- Naish noted that biomechanics is physiology, not ecology. This could be two courses: “Advanced Topics in Ecology” and “Advanced Topics in Physiology.”

**ACTION:** Hall will send proposal back in the Curriculum Management system for revisions.

3. Proposed course change from Program on the Environment (Kristi Straus, 15 minutes):

**ENVIR 310 “Data Analysis in Environmental Studies” (adding DL designation)**

[https://uw.kuali.co/cm/#/courses/view/61a90bad9837bd90f3fe8f47](https://uw.kuali.co/cm/#/courses/view/61a90bad9837bd90f3fe8f47)

Summary of proposed changes: This course was reviewed by College Curriculum Committee last year. It focuses on analyzing qualitative and quantitative data that are publicly available or available to the student via their capstone project. The only change is the addition of the distance learning (DL) designation. Student evaluations of remote delivery show they were extremely satisfied in their ability to succeed and achieve the learning objectives. Hybrid delivery is always possible; the DL request is for the possibility to offer it 100% remote during summer quarter.

The committee approved the proposal pending final revisions:

- Add the syllabus for both remote and in-person versions.
- The final project is worth 80% in the Curriculum Management proposal and 5% on syllabus –make these match.
- Why is the final project such a small portion of the grade? Typically a final project is worth more.
- In the “Distance Learning” section of the proposal, under the sub-heading “Student Interaction,” finish the sentence, “Students receive a great...”

**ACTION:** Hall will send proposal back in the Curriculum Management system for revisions.
4. Teaching Support Team (TST) updates (Mikelle Nuwer, 10 minutes)
The TST has been busy supporting a small number of faculty. Main issues Autumn Quarter 2021: a) attendance b) cheating c) lower exam scores d) learning loss e) loss of study skills/time management. The status of support for TST in Winter and Spring 2021 is unknown, but there is still a need.
The team hosted/will host 2 events this week:
   1. TA grading care boxes – 11:30am-12:30pm Mon 12/6
   2. Autumn Quarter lessons learned – 11:30am-12:30pm Fri 12/10
Please help us spread the word and encourage colleagues.

Suggestions from the committee:
   • At the “lessons learned,” please discuss providing an incentive for students to come to class. Watching the instructor read the slides is not an incentive. Could this be solved by a letter from students to the Chair?
   • At this session, discuss how to empower students to ask for more e.g., “can you show me graphically?” “I don’t understand how this relates to that.”
   • Suggestions to offset low attendance at events:
      o Offer compensation
      o Give a remote option
      o Send out the notes
      o Get a peer to recommend it/bring a friend
      o Re-send the message through local people (e.g., GPAs, Dept CC Chair)
   • Discuss the role of TST in faculty evaluations, in a way faculty would agree to them.

Meeting adjourned: 12:00 PM