College of the Environment Curriculum Committee
Meeting Minutes for May 9, 2022
12 PM – 1:30 PM

Present (in person):
- Aquatic & Fishery Sciences – Luke Tornabene
- Undergraduate Student Representatives – Jessica Goulet, Anya Gavrylko
- Oceanography – Mikelle Nuwer
- Program on the Environment – Kristi Straus
- Earth and space sciences – Juliet Crider
- Graduate Student Representative – Taylor Gantz
- Dean’s Office staff – Michelle Hall, Jane Dolliver

Present (via Zoom):
- Marine and Environmental Affairs – Sunny Jardine
- Graduate Student Representative – Rosalind Echols
- Marine Biology – Kerry Naish

Absent:
- Atmospheric Sciences – Greg Hakim
- Friday Harbor Labs – Mason Wiley
- Environmental and Forest Sciences – Sergey Rabotyagov

1. Proposed course change from Program on the Environment (Kristi Straus, 15 minutes):
- ENVIR 497 “Seminar in Environmental Studies”
  [https://uw.kuali.co/cm/#/courses/view/6189799861136e4dc930763b](https://uw.kuali.co/cm/#/courses/view/6189799861136e4dc930763b)

Summary of proposal: This is not a new course, and the content has not changed. Still an honors seminar (topic changes quarterly) with reading, writing, and discussion. To count as department honors, however, the course needs to be graded and at least 4 credits. The changes:
- 1-5 credits, variable
- Option to have graded
- Move cap from 6 credits to 10 (course can be taken twice)

The committee approved the proposal pending final suggested revisions:
- There is detail about how grades be determined but add how final grades are assigned.
- Make the learning objectives sections match: more in the syllabus than in the proposal.
- For proposed “Anticipated Student Type,” do not list graduate students unless you plan to create a parallel 500-level course with graduate-level deliverables and evaluation.

2. Proposed new course from Oceanography (Mikelle Nuwer, 15 minutes):
- OCEAN 462 “Ocean Technology Independent Study”
  [https://uw.kuali.co/cm/#/courses/view/626abd49c38cd23860ccee58c](https://uw.kuali.co/cm/#/courses/view/626abd49c38cd23860ccee58c)

Summary of proposal: Oceanography is developing curricula surrounding ocean technology. There is a course on ocean sensors (300-level), and a set of design/build courses 261/361/461, among others. Lots of students like to be in the space, including students from engineering, and
members of the ROV club. There are 10-11 students right now (either as teams or advised independently by Rick Rupan or Sasha Seroy) currently earning credit under OCEAN 499 – independent research. Ocean 492 allows for more structure – weekly meeting time, milestones, end goals.

The committee approved the proposal pending final suggested revisions:

- Because this involves group projects, consider changing the course title to, e.g., “Ocean technology practicum” or “Ocean technology studio.”
- Confirm that OCEAN wants to jointly list this course with ME and AA, and follow-up with those units to ensure that they acknowledge the proposal in Kuali. The Dean’s Office will wait to add College approvals after all affected, co-listing units acknowledge in Kuali.
- Consider making it clearer that students are taking the same course and enrolling in different numbers of credits. Add, “as an example a 1-credit students would do this… a 5-credit student would do this…”
- In justification, say “we regularly have...” instead of “we have a committed cohort.”
- In objective 4, remove “learn to,” say “… and communicate project goals…”
- Since there are no prerequisites, consider listing some recommended preparation (math? computer programming?) so students who are thinking of taking the course know if it would be suitable.
- For religious accommodations in syllabus, need to provide the statement with full links, exactly as listed here: [https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodations-policy/](https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodations-policy/)
- Confirm that this course will count for oceanography elective credit (for the major).

3. Teaching Support Team updates

- Met with Be REAL – they provide trainings and workshops for staff/faculty and classes for students. This is an evidence-based class ([GEN ST 297G, GEN ST 297J](#)) for Spring Quarter, possibly not offered for [Autumn Quarter](#) to assist students in dealing with stress. Mental health related reports from students are rising and this could be a partner is giving faculty tools beyond referring students to SafeCampus.
  - **Action**: CC leads will distribute info about the BE Real course to their students, for ways to increase mindfulness and decrease stress.
- Kristi has taken the lead on preparing a CoEnv TA course proposal that will be received during the next curriculum committee meeting. This will encourage TA community building and peer-to-peer support. Committee members suggested offering this CoEnv course Monday afternoons.
- José Guzmán meets regularly with a DRS working group that is preparing a set of resources for faculty, with DRS accommodations on the rise. New this year: DRS accommodations re: anxiety, suicide attempts, family and friend mental health.
  - Note that the group of advisors (SAFS, MB, ESS, OCEAN) have just completed the Forefront Suicide Prevention train-the-trainers training. This group is certified to offer training to other advising staff and faculty/staff in their units.
  - Faculty can help by highlighting syllabus statements and say “It’s ok if you fall under one of these categories. I’m on your side. I will work with you.”
• When a student reports their DRS accommodations are not being met, what should happen? A: ask that the student, “have you had a conversation with the faculty member?”
  o Note sometimes not possible to meet 100% of accommodations without sacrificing learning objectives. Faculty should reach out to students early in the quarter to discuss and agree to accommodations in writing.
  o The system relies on non-DRS students to be self-advocates. Have a drop policy, so that self-advocates and non-self-advocates receive similar allowances.
• CoEnv Faculty Fellows program will involve forming cohorts, meet at beginning of fall, checking in later in quarter to start working on winter syllabus.
  o Make sure the invitation includes strategic efficiency – learn how to spend the same amount of time to do things well!

4. Updates on confirming curriculum committee members for next year
We have received: 4 grad nominees, 6 undergraduate nominees. The deadline is May 13. The Committee will review the statements of interest at the next meeting. Julia and Michelle will reach out to each Chair/Director to confirm a list of committee placements. The search for faculty Chair of the Curriculum Committee is ongoing.

The deadline for the May 31st meeting is next Friday, May 20th.

Meeting adjourned: 1:05pm