University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire

University Senate Academic Policies Committee
Vol. 58, Meeting No. 1
Tuesday, September 21, 2021
VLL1128 and via Zoom

Present:  Members: Scott Clark, Abby Hemmerich, Mary Hoffman, Marquell Johnson, Carol Koroghlanian, Bill Miller, Dalete Mota, Kati Schaller, Jamie Tester Morfoot, Evan Weiher
Guests: Jim Boulter, Margaret Cassidy

Presiding: Chair Marquell Johnson called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

1. Approval of minutes from April 27, 2021
   ▪ Motion to approve the minutes of April 27, 2021. Motion was seconded and approved unanimously (9-0-0).

2. Introduction of committee members and selection of chair
   ▪ Marquell agreed to serve as committee chair for the 21-22 AY

3. Meeting format for remainder of Fall 2021 academic semester (in-person, hybrid, virtual)
   ▪ Hybrid model meeting format will continue for remainder of semester (VLL1128 | Zoom)

4. Academic programs under review for 2021/22 and discuss possible completion timelines
   a) American Indian Studies Program
   b) Department of Geography and Anthropology
   c) Department of Psychology
   d) Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies
   e) Department of Material Science and Biomedical Engineering
      ▪ Will be ready for APC’s review in March
      ▪ Geography and Anthropology’s external reviewer will be on-campus, others will be remote
      ▪ Mary would like to have a discussion regarding the program review process, e.g., should current APC members be allowed to serve on IRC, what are we trying to get out of the program review process and/or do the forms allow that?

   ▪ Jim Boulter was in attendance to provide information and answer questions. Was created due to students’ requests and the Chancellor’s Sustainability & Climate Action Task Force, has been in the works for a few years. Emphasis on looking for solutions within their majors, 15 credits. Met with 14 department chairs across three colleges to make sure courses are represented across the institution.
      • Any concerns with the listed courses in terms of course sequence and time to certificate completion, due to course availability?
        No intentional scaffolding within certificate. Several courses in each tier have prereqs; however, students are only taking one course. Included a mix of 100- and 300-level courses with no prereqs, along with major-specific courses. Requires 9 credits of the 15 must be above 300-level.
If enrollment increases, will students have access to program-specific faculty vs ARCC? Large number of departments involved, confident students could reach out to others and the set of faculty advisors can be expanded. Certificate is 15 credits, little sequencing, not much guidance should be required. One advantage is students enrolled would form a cohort who share an interest in addressing climate and sustainability post-graduation, as that develops, informal peer advising will occur as well.

Anticipate Environment, Society, and Culture minors and Public Health minors will be interested in the certificate? Could these students do a minor and a certificate or will there be problems with the required 48 unique credits? Will be some areas of overlap (Environment, Society, and Culture minor more so). It is set up for a major and minor so this would be the third program—only look at first and second programs for graduation/no concern with meeting graduation requirements

Have students been doing topical major minors for this?
A couple

Could this impact the Bachelor of Liberal Studies? A lot are sustainability-related, will they pursue the certificate and another major? Seems to be overlap.
A few years ago, Sustainability Studies major in Watershed was approved by System, but didn’t progress due to budget cuts. Certificate is different and intended, e.g., for a BBA major who wants to include sustainability into their business. Think the Bachelor of Liberal Studies is opportunity to create a custom major, isn’t bad to have students pursue this instead.

Courses have intersecting issues but no cornerstone courses. Is there risk in doing so? Would be a risk to course availability otherwise. 15 credits, went risk averse, maximum flexibility to allow students to move through it quickly, choices given to students, will have fundamentally different levels of understanding. Comprehensive majors have impacts on their ability to do a minor; certificates can be the better option. May receive different experiences in classes, but depends on what the student wants to use the certificate for, e.g., Geography vs. Social Work majors, courses are applicable depending on the major and how the student is going to use that knowledge.

Motion to approve the proposal for a Credit-Bearing Certificate Program: Sustainability and Climate Action (Code XXX-XXX). Motion was seconded and approved (9-0-0).

6. Upcoming agenda items (discussion)

- CIE adding/canceling programs and English language testing/deadlines, a request from DOS to make a change to FASRP (add seventh excused absence for students: jury duty and/or summons), discussion on service-learning vs community engagement, determine whether to pursue the language change regarding taking lower-level courses after upper-level courses.
- Bill noted the Senate ballot for committee openings indicated that APC meets bi-weekly, recommended the ballot be changed.

Chair Marquell Johnson adjourned the meeting at 2:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Forcier
Secretary for the Meeting