

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
The Undergraduate Educational Policy and Curriculum Committee

Minutes
240 SH
Feb 23, 2023

Attending: Cornelia Lang (chair), Melissa Bates, Jill Beckman, Asha Bhandary, Roxanna Curto, Jennifer Eimers (staff), Alan Huckleberry, Erin Irish, Cinda Coggins Mosher, Christine Shea, Jan Wessel, Jenna Yang

Guest: Amy Korthank

1. The minutes from the February 16, 2023, meeting were approved.
2. Cinda Coggins Mosher, UEPC liaison to the GE Curriculum Committee (GECC), summarized a proposal that GECC has approved and their discussion about the course.
 - a. GEOG:1070 Contemporary Environmental Issues (Sustainability and IGI)

After a brief discussion, the committee approved the course for GE status in Sustainability and International and Global Issues (IGI). The course currently carries IGI and Social Sciences (SS) GE status, and the SS will be dropped effective Summer 2023.

3. Jennifer Eimers, Senior Associate Director, Curriculum and Instruction, led a discussion of [CLAS independent study policies](#). Independent study courses are defined as courses that a faculty member and an undergraduate student create together for individual instruction and that can be completed in a single semester. Independent research, independent or directed reading, and independent creative projects are included in this definition. Practica, capstone courses, internships, Guided Independent Study (GIS) courses, Senior Thesis, Honors Thesis, and Honors Project hours are **not** considered undergraduate independent study courses and do not require an independent study contract.

Currently up to 9 s.h. of independent study courses may count toward the 120 s.h. that students need to graduate, and the committee agreed this limit is appropriate. The current policy requires a contract for each independent study, but many departments do not use one. The committee discussed that contracts are important to clarify expectations for both student and instructor, and discussed the most effective and least burdensome methods for creating, sharing, and filing the contracts. If an accrediting body were to ask, CLAS should be able to demonstrate that there are systems in place to assure the quality of the [credit hours](#) that CLAS awards, and the independent study contracts are a way to do that. The committee also discussed that instructors are not paid for independent study, so keeping track of these can be a support to requests for merit raises.

The committee plans to return to this topic later in the semester after members have discussed the topic with their departments.

4. The committee had a general discussion about the use of ChatGPT and how faculty are experiencing it in their classrooms. From an academic misconduct standpoint, the course syllabus should be clear about what is allowed with AI tools and what is not. While some instructors are rewriting essay and paper prompts to be more specific or asking students to do more in-class writing without electronic devices, others are teaching students about the limitations of ChatGPT. Comparisons were made to calculators in math courses and Google translate in world language courses; these tools are useful but not perfect. ChatGPT is not creating new ideas, so earning degree by using ChatGPT for assignments is far less valuable to students than learning to be critical thinkers who can adapt to a changing future job market. This moment provides an opportunity, much like the switch to online learning in 2020, to reconsider the purpose of each assignment and how course assessment can be designed to meet learning outcomes in the wake of this new AI program.
5. Adjournment of meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Irish
Associate Professor, Biology
Secretary, UEPCC