

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

Minutes

Feb 3, 2022

Attending: Cornelia Lang (chair), Roxanna Curto, Jennifer Eimers (staff), Eric Gidal, Alan Huckleberry, Erin Irish, Andrew Kitchen, Cinda Coggins Mosher, Jennifer Rogers, Christine Shea, Jenna Yang

Not Attending: Jan Wessel

Guests: Kris DeMali, Todd Washington

1. The minutes from January 27, 2022, were approved as written.
2. On February 7, 2022, Stratis Giannakouros, Director of the Office of Sustainability and the Environment, is presenting to the Council of Deans the UI's sustainability goals for 2030, including some goals related to curriculum. One of these goals is that all University of Iowa undergraduate students will need to engage with coursework in sustainability issues.
3. Kris DeMali, Professor, Interim Chair, and DEO, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Carver College of Medicine and Todd Washington, Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Carver College of Medicine, joined the committee to share some recent changes.

Name changes of department and degree programs: The Board of Regents approved the Department of Biochemistry being renamed Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in July 2021. The department requested the name change to align more closely with faculty research interests and course offerings. The name change also aligns the department with other Big 10 departments and the national organization. The department is working through the process to change also the name of the Biochemistry BA and BS to Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. The Department of Biology supports this name change. There was a brief discussion in UEPCC about the undergraduate degrees changing names.

New course: The [Biochemistry BA and BS](#) currently require two semesters of physical chemistry, which students often satisfy with Biophysical Chemistry I and II (BIOC:4241 and BIOC:4242). Owing to faculty staffing concerns and student feedback, the department is developing a new 3 s.h. course BIOC: 3xxx Biophysics and Advanced Chemistry, which will be required in place of the one semester of the two-semester sequence. One goal is to present the material at a level more accessible to advanced undergraduate students. Majors will still be required to take two semesters of physical chemistry, so the Chemistry Department may see increased enrollments in their advanced physical chemistry courses. Biophysics and Advanced Chemistry may also be of interest

to some Biology, Physics, and Chemistry majors in CLAS and will be offered every semester.

4. Alan Huckleberry, UEPCC liaison to the General Education Curriculum Committee (GECC), summarized two proposals that GECC has approved and the discussion about them. The courses are GEOG:2013 Introduction to Sustainability and SOC:1040 Energy, Sustainability, and Society. Both proposals are requesting Sustainability and Social Science GE status. Introduction to Sustainability is currently one of the two core requirements for the Sustainability certificate, and Energy, Sustainability, and Society would be a new course. The committee discussed the two proposals and voted in favor of approving both for CLAS Core GE status for Sustainability and SS.
5. [CLAS grading policies](#): in the few remaining minutes, Associate Dean Lang provided an overview of the kinds of grading questions she would like UEPCC to discuss this semester, continuing the discussion from April 2021. These include [Guidelines for Grading in Undergraduate Courses](#); [Other Marks on Grade Report](#); [Second Grade Option or SGO](#); [P/N grading](#); and more emphasis on faculty reporting midterm grades in order to help students to understand where they are at the midpoint.
6. Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Cinda Coggins Mosher
Associate Professor of Instruction, Rhetoric
Secretary of UEPCC