

Minutes
Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee
May 3, 2018

Call to Order: R. Wood called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Members in Attendance: A. Rellergert, C. Boyd, D. Barbeau, E. Gockel-Blessing, G. Barker, J. Haugen, J. Masiulis, J. Burwinkel, K. Thatcher, L. Sweetman, N. Westhus, R. Cole, R. Wood, S. Tyuse, and W. Ebel

Guests in Attendance: E. Carnaghan and M. Goldwasser

Approval of Minutes from the April, 12, 2018 Meeting: Minutes from the April 12, 2018 meeting were unanimously approved.

New Academic Program Proposals:

New Minor and Revision to Major in International Studies:

Ellen Carnaghan attended the meeting to discuss both the new minor and revision to major in International Studies. The new minor in International Studies has been approved by the College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee.

International studies has existed at SLU for more than twenty years. It was designed primarily as an add on major for people who were studying foreign language. It had a strong language requirement but did not have much structure. Students could take whatever they wanted. It was a secondary major so students had to have another major.

Two things lead to this change. It was felt that it was critically unstructured in its shape. Students could end up with an International Studies major without having planned on it because there were so many electives. Those electives didn't necessarily make sense. Also, the program underwent extra-long review and the external reviewers also noted that it was an unstructured program and not consistent with other international studies programs.

A group of people were brought together which included people from political science, foreign language, sociology, and art history. They looked at other schools and came up with a redesign of the major which looks a lot like what they have at Northwestern. There is a core of classes, which is common in international studies majors which include: political science, foreign language, anthropology, and economics. It also has a thematic focus. Students must take three courses in one theme area. A senior Capstone was also added so it would be possible to assess this major.

During this process, they also decided to create a minor which has never existed in international studies. The reason for creating the minor is that they have a fair number of students who are now doing international studies as a third major.

The idea of the minor is so students who don't have enough space to fit all the requirements of the somewhat more rigorous major now would have the option of the minor.

Ellen took questions from the Committee.

New BS in Data Science:

Michael Goldwasser addressed the group on the proposal being jointly proposed by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics and the Department of Computer Science. A joint committee developed the curriculum.

Data Science is a wonderfully growing area in this era of big data. The real question in data science is, how do you take data and make informed decisions and come up with recommendations. It has appeal in both social sciences, natural languages, scientific discovery, etc.

There are great job prospects for students who are trained in this area. There has also been a lot of enthusiasm among current students as well as high school students.

The curriculum is trying to both prepare students for types of careers that they will have in this field but also judiciously use the resources that we already have on campus. This is for the most part, taking the right selection of courses that are already being offered every year from either the Department of Computer Science or Math Stat courses. There are a couple new courses that are being proposed so there is a Data Science Practicum that they would need to take two semesters of typically in sophomore/junior year. There is also a Capstone requirement.

Michael answered questions from the Committee.

3+3 English BA - JD Program:

Discussion. Committee members will take back to colleagues.

Biology/STLCOP Accelerated BS/PharmD:

This was approved by the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee but it will not be approved by Arts and Sciences Faculty Council until later this afternoon.

A revision was made to #9 on Accelerated BIO-STLCOP BS/Pharm D Proposal.

Further discussion. Changes to documents were suggested. Gary will get clarification and Committee will vote next week.

Accelerated BS in Biostatistics to MS in Health Data Science:

Discussion. Questions from Committee on credit hours. What is the definition of junior year? 60-75 hours or 3rd year? Rob will ask for clarification.

Announcements:

This afternoon from 1:00 to 4:00 on the third floor of Morrissey Hall there is a Three Minute Thesis Contest.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 am.