

Meeting Minutes

MSAS Program Review Committee

Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 9:30AM in HI 107

Members present: Michelle Brown, Kelli Custer, Nicholas Gallucci, Kristin Giamanco, Brian Stankus, Çiğdem Üsekes, Howell Williams

Guests present: Daniel Coffman, Forest Robertson

I. Prior Minutes

1. Approval of December 11th minutes
 - Motion to approve the December 2024 minutes (Üsekes/Giamanco)
 - Motion approved (6-0-0)

I. New Business

1. Course Revision – ENG 104: Introduction to Nonfiction (General education designation) (Üsekes) (CD2425082)
2. Course Revision – ENG 106: Introduction to Fiction (General education designation) (Üsekes) (CD2425080)
3. Course Revision – ENG 108: Introduction to Literature (General education designation) (Üsekes) (CD2425081)
4. Course Revision – ENG 130W: English Seminar (General education designation) (Üsekes) (CD2425083)
 - Motion to approve the revisions to ENG 104, 106, 108, and 130W (Stankus/Brown)
 - ***Note (added March 15th, 2025): After this meeting, the MSAS PRC was advised that these courses (ENG 104, 106, 108, and 130) will exist as both writing intensive and non-writing intensive courses (i.e., ENG 104/104W, ENG 106/106W, ENG 108/108W, and ENG 130/130W). This amendment to the February 2025 meeting minutes was approved at the March 2025 MSAS PRC meeting.***
 - After thorough discussion, all agreed that:
 - The current batch of proposals (104W/106W/108W/130W) should be re-worded to specify that these are the “W” courses being revised to “WIL”. It is also appropriate to change the course titles to reflect that these courses include a research writing component.
 - A “new” batch of proposals for the non-writing intensive courses (formerly 104/106/108) should be submitted as 1XX. As this will only be a course number change, this can go directly to the provost.
 - The committee also requested the following revisions:
 - The “assessment” statement in all four proposals should be revised to focus on the modes of student assessment, rather than course assessment.
 - The course outline for ENG 106W should be consistently formatted.
 - Motion approved (7-0-0)
5. Course Revision – BIO 260: Modes of Scientific Communication (General education designation) (Pinou) (CD2425089)
 - Motion to approve the revision to BIO 260 (Üsekes/Brown)
 - A thorough discussion was had regarding the appropriateness of the WIL designation for a course intended only for Biology majors. The two main perspectives are summarized as follows:
 - BIO 260 fulfills all stated aspects of the WIL general education designation. In addition, this course alone sufficiently prepares students for writing within the discipline of biology.

- General education designations are meant for courses that are open to any major, and a BIO 104 pre-requisite is not appropriate for a Gen Ed course.

The course, while excellent, should not have a WIL designation.

- Motion rejected (2-5-0)
- 6. New Course – CS 5XX: Foundations of Artificial Intelligence (Coffman) (CD2425084)
- 7. New Course – CS 5XX: Autonomous Systems (Coffman) (CD2425085)
- 8. New Course – CS 5XX: Reinforcement Learning (Coffman) (CD2425086)
- 9. New Course – CS 5XX: Natural Language Processing (Coffman) (CD2425087)
- 10. New Course – CS 5XX: Neural Networks and Deep Learning (Coffman) (CD2425088)
 - Motion to approve the five CS 5XX courses listed above (Üsekes/Williams)
 - The committee requests the following revisions:
 - In the CS course rotation, remove parenthetical designations of (even years) or (odd years) from some course titles.
 - Consistently format course outlines.
 - In “Autonomous Systems” and “Neural Networks and Deep Learning”: remove CS 3XX as a pre-requisite.
 - In “Foundations of Artificial Intelligence”: insert the word “of” into the phrase: “the course introduces several types language models...” in the course description.
 - In “Autonomous Systems”: change the word “topic” to “topics” in the course description.
 - In “Autonomous Systems”: remove “.....” and “more details in the book...” from the course outline.
 - Motion approved (6-0-1).

Minutes submitted by Brian Stankus.