

CAO Meeting # 3 (09/21/2023)

Present: Steven Van Dessel (Chair, CEAE), Greg Lewin (Secretary, RBE), Gizem Arslan (HUA), Nick Blank (Director of Academic Programs, Undergraduate Studies), Danielle Cote (MME), Arne Gericke (CBC, Interim Dean of Undergraduate Studies), Jianyu Liang (MME), Sarah Miles (Registrar), Paul Reilly (Assistant Dean of Student Success), Qingshuo Song (MA)

Absent: None

Scheduled: Thursday, September 21, 2023, 12pm

Location: Virtual meeting via video conference

Meeting was called to order at 12:02 pm.

Old Business

1. The motion to change the distribution requirements for Civil Engineering was discussed in light of input on limits to distribution requirements. S. Van Dessel noted (from Mark Richman) that the WPI Catalog states that distribution requirements "*typically* total no more than ten units," [emphasis added] which leaves some flexibility in the number of units. The Committee has asked CE to provide a rationale for exceeding 10 units.

N. Blank and A. Gericke provided information about Transfer and AP Credit. A little more than half (57%) of incoming students come in with credits, and first-years who declare CE have a similar profile, suggesting that increased requirements would be manageable by many students. A. Gericke noted that early graduation may not be a good indicator of excess capacity in their schedules; S. Miles noted that, anecdotally, students with excess capacity tend to embark on an MS in lieu of graduating early.

New Business

1. Elizabeth Ryder and Louis Roberts from the Biology and Biotechnology Department joined the meeting half-way through to present an overview of the restructuring of the BBT Curriculum. In summary, the new curriculum is designed to:
 1. Create a spiral curriculum to build upon "Vision and Change" concepts and competencies,
 2. Require a strong foundational set of courses,
 3. Re-sequence later courses to facilitate the spiral curriculum,
 4. Renumber laboratory courses for clarity, and
 5. Increase flexibility by removing the formal breadth requirement and encapsulating breadth into core courses.

G. Lewin asked for more information about previous breadth requirements and if BBT is worried about over-specialization. E. Ryder explained that the requirements for the core

courses (4 out of 6) ensure breadth. G. Lewin also asked about not requiring a course in statistics. L. Roberts noted that statistics is built into the courses that require it and that BBT wanted to give students flexibility. A. Gericke asked BBT to get input on the proposed changes from related departments (e.g., BME). E. Ryder noted that the changes were mostly name changes, but that BBT would contact other departments.

Specific motions will be considered in future meetings.

The meeting concluded at 12:56.

Electronic Business

Five motions that were tabled in CAO Meeting #2 (9/14/23) were passed after suggested updates:

1. A motion to add EDU 2300, Out-of-School Time K-12 STEM Education in the Local Community, was approved via email on 9/25/23.
2. A motion to renumber ID 3200, Shelter English Immersion Endorsement Course For Teachers, to EDU 3200 was approved via email on 9/25/23.
3. A motion to renumber ID 4000, Topics in Teacher Preparation: Practicum Seminar, to EDU 4000 was approved via email on 9/25/23.
4. A motion to renumber ID 3100, Teaching Methods in Mathematics and Science, to EDU 4100 was approved via email on 9/25/23.
5. A motion to add EDU 4200, Senior Seminar, was approved via email on 9/25/23.

Respectfully submitted,
Greg Lewin
Secretary, CAO