

Minutes: 2/20/09 Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (UGCC) Meeting

Supporting documents can be found at the UGCC's Web site at www.fit.edu/ugcc.

At the request of the UGCC chair, College of Engineering Associate Dean Ed Kalajian gave an update on the COE co-op program. When recent Faculty Senate minutes stated that "a new coop program had been instituted," some UGCC members had questions, which Dr. Kalajian answered. He reported that the program could be completed in 4 years, includes online education, requires COM 2223, which is being developed into an online course, and requires five other Florida Tech courses taught online in an 8-week format. A 2010 implementation is anticipated. Discussion included concerns about under-22-year-old, non-University-Alliance students being allowed to take UA courses and the use of co-op experience as a technical elective. In the future, the UGCC will request that the Provost address the under-age concern. Dr. Kalajian also reported that it is likely that efforts will be made to tighten up co-op policies.

Consideration of OCE 4590 (Design of Marine Propulsion Systems) was withdrawn from the agenda prior to the meeting.

The following new courses were approved:

- MAE 4250 – Physical Principles of Nuclear Reactors (with computer title changed to Phys Prin Nuclear Reactor)
- MAE 4260 – Nuclear Reactor Engineering (with computer title changed to Nuclear Reactor Engr)
- MAE 4270 – Nuclear Reactor Safety
- MAE 4280 – Radiological Engineering
- BIO 4411 – Conservation Genetics

The new major, Biomathematics, was approved.

Approved were changes to restrictions or credits for:

- MTH 1702
- PSY 3542

Regarding changing restrictions or credits for BUS 4702, corrections were made to the changes in prerequisites and corequisites listed on the form. The action was then approved. Regarding changing graduation requirements for the accounting major (7267), corrections were made to course numbers listed on the form. The action was then approved.

A discussion took place regarding the Individualized Studies major and minor combination option. Some concerns raised were: the number of 3000/4000-level courses, appropriateness of a BA or a BS, the open-endedness of number of combinations of minors, the Individualized Studies terminology, and the pros and cons of having options, which have their own degree code, versus concentrations. Gary Hamme explained some marketing strategies that can be used to minimize the number of minor combinations and the rationale for the use of Individualized Studies. Due to time constraints, further discussion was tabled until the 3/27/09 UGCC meeting. At that time, this matter will be first on the agenda.

Other:

Discussion: Bill Gorton asked for advice on how to disallow poor but not failing MTH 0003 (online) and MTH 0111 students from going on to next level. Several options were discussed, the most beneficial of which seemed to be changing the classes to a pass-fail grading scheme.

A side discussion about administratively dropping students also took place. Many concerns were expressed; some background information was provided by Registrar Cookie Young.

Our next meeting is Friday, March 27, at 8:00 a.m. in the Physical Sciences conference room. Agenda items are due Friday, March 20.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Turner
Chair, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee