

Undergraduate Research Curriculum Committee

Thursday, March 16, 2023

Meeting Minutes

WebEx Meeting 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm

Attendees

Members present: F. Bloetscher, E. Williams, E. Bennett, JY. Park, D. Mitsova, M. DeDonno, T. Hindle, C. Krause-Parello, D. Meeroff and D. Chamely-Wiik

Others present: P. Sampedro and J. Soberon

I. Approve January 19, 2023 - meeting minutes.

Motion to approve: E. Williams and F. Bloetscher, all in favor.

II. Course submitted for RI Designation

ENG - IDS4894 Professional Capstone – D. Meeroff

DCW shared screen with Dr. Meeroff course syllabus.

D.M. This capstone course was approved early this year and it is being piloted. It is a required course for students in the Bachelor of Professional Studies degree program to do the summative assessment for accreditation. It is also intended to eventually be required for the students graduating with Bachelor of General Studies.

The course has an enormous research component and it is supposed to be taken in the last semester. There are different examples on how we can achieve the capstone base on the student's degree program, it is not a specific college degree program. Dr. Meeroff gave examples on how the program can work in different fields, like Science, Education, Arts and Letters and Business.

E. Williams - requested an addition to the syllabus, a preface that says: "This project will involve the design and execution of a planned-out methodology" to be consistent with what we expect for research.

There were concerns about being a 5-week course and the fully online session. D. Meeroff clarified that it is a 5-module course that can be done in a full semester or in 5 weeks if the student has a previous project that can be refined. Regarding the fully online course, in each module of the course there is a "live online" requirement for the student to meet with the faculty supervisor. There's quite a lot one on one mentoring with a minimum of 5 meetings where there's review and feedback and constructive criticism and evaluation of how the feedback was. These interviews are documented on the student time sheet. We are preparing to be able to have this course Academic Service Learning Designated, all the mechanism are in place to record the time that the students are working on the project. This course was listed as online because it will be certified as high-quality online class.

At the beginning of the course there is a question that is asked to every student “Do you feel comfortable doing UG research without assistance”, if the student is not comfortable then it automatically points them to their peer mentor to assist with the process of doing the literature review background for the process of designing the presentation.

DCW-This is a type of assignment that the faculty member grades all the students under the same criteria with the same learning outcomes, this is a unique case because we are dealing with multiple faculty guiding multiple type of assignments. Just trying to think 5 years down the line when we're assessing this for our RI re-certification, if this were to be approved.

Under these circumstances, would we be requiring student work samples in 5 different categories?.

D. Meeroff – it doesn't necessarily have to be 5 examples, it has to be examples of the ones completed by the timeframe. There's a rubric based on competencies for the final written document, final presentation. All the information will be in Canvas as part of the products that we have to show for accreditation. He will add this language to the syllabus, along with the course title.

Motion to approve: C. Krause-Parello and F. Bloetscher, all in favor.

III. Undergraduate Research Certificate Updates – Advertisement

DCW we are not getting the activity that we were hoping for this semester, only 26 students registered for IDS course and HON college 30. Word still not getting out despite our efforts. Encourage Liaisons to spread the message of the UGR certificate.

ENG advisors are working on the certificates, last semester they have 19 now 35 expect at least 50 this year.

D. Meeroff – There will be a metric created for Nondegree credentials that are unrelated to a bachelor's degree. UG research certificate could be a huge help to our metrics for the next year. If the governor is able to make that change, go into effect this year.

D. Mitsova - URP capstone courses are almost ready for the degree, just working on the showcase or design presentation to have everything in place.

Having an additional showcase/dissemination opportunity for students will increase the number of undergraduate research certificates.

IV. Update on Faculty Incentive funding – RI designation and 5-year review of RI courses.

DCW updated. Last date to submit a course for RI designation and faculty to receive the incentive is the April 13th URCC meeting. This is the last meeting that we can guaranteed the supplemental funding, we do not know if we are going to get this fund carry forward for the next academic year.

OURI has last year data of students enrolled in RI courses broken down by college and program. During 2021-2022, 2700 students completed RI designated classes. This year we have 2241 students enrolled in RI courses.

FB-looking for courses that students have to take that have a research component, and the ways to assess them individually. Computer Eng do not want to have 40% of grade tie to a project.

Eng is working on a mechanism that will help advisors identify potential students that qualify for the UG research Certificate, that they can shared with other colleges.

OURI Action Items:

Draft of updated RI 5-year review documents for members' feedback to include the following:

1. Write a statement of what research looks like in your field.
2. All feedback from the reviewers should be considered when updating the syllabus.
3. If the faculty does not agree with the reviewers' comments, a response to reviewer is required.

Dona will send the changes through email to URCC members. Emails edited do not have to go to UUPC.

Motion to approved editing email language F. Bloetscher and JY. Park, and all in favor.

Meeting adjourned 1:26 pm.