

Minutes
University Committee on Courses and Curricula
September 14, 2005

PRESENT: Tim Chamblee, Amy Adkerson, Benjamin Blair, Angi Bourgeois, David Bridges, Rita Burrell, Russell Carr, Michael Clifford, Bruce Ebanks, Jackie Edwards-Henry, Carlen Henington, William Henry, James Jones, Rogelio Luck, Sharon Nobles, Charles Palmer, Tommy Parker, Kevin Rogers, Robert Wolverton and Stephen Horn

EXCUSED: Wanda Cheek*, Julie Fulgham, Mark Lehman, Phyllis Miller (sabbatical), Rudy Rogers, June Schmidt, Emily Schultz, and Stacey Ritter

UNEXCUSED: Matt Brammuchi

*Angel Fason-Proxy for Wanda Cheek

GUEST: Beth Miller, Interior Design Program Coordinator

Chamblee called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. in Lloyd Ricks Annex. Chamblee welcomed the committee members and thanked them for their willingness to serve. He also thanked returning members for their work on the 124 hours degree modifications. Chamblee stated that in 2005-2006 the committee would review courses that haven't been taught in five years and be actively involved with intersession.

Chamblee introduced Beth Miller from Interior Design

Wolverton moved, seconded by Bridges, to approve the April 22, 2005 meeting minutes.

Bridges moved, seconded by Wolverton, to approve the modification on various Interior Design courses with HS prefixes to the new ID prefix, HS 2603 Interior design Fundamentals, HS 3673 Environments for Special Needs, HS 4613/6613 Commercial Interior Design Studio II, HS 4623/6623 Commercial Interior Design Studio I, HS 4643/6643 Residential Interior Design Studio II, HS 4653/6653 Commercial Interior Design Studio III, and the addition of ID 1694 Interior Design Studio I, IS 3363 3/D CAD/Modeling in Interior Design, ID 3633 Interior Design Detailing and Construction Documents, ID 4651 Internship Placement and the addition of the Bachelor of Science degree in Interior Design. Chamblee explained that the Interior Design degree program had been sent to IHL. He also stated that from conversations with IHL staff members and the provost office the program should be approved in October. Miller answered various questions regarding course and degree proposals. The motion passed unanimously.

Bridges moved, seconded by Palmer, to approve the modification of AEC 413/6123 Financial and Commodities Futures Markets and the addition of FIN 4123/6123 Financial and Commodities Futures Markets. The motion passed unanimously.

Bourgeois moved, seconded by Wolverton, to approve the modification of EPP 4335/6335 Anatomy and Physiology of Insects. Discussion followed concerning the course description and method of evaluation. The motion failed to pass.

Bridges moved, seconded by Henry, to approve the addition of CH 4603 Undergraduate Research. Henry answered questions from committee members. Discussion continued regarding the method of evaluation and syllabus. By a vote of 18-1-0 the motion passed contingent on the development of the course syllabus.

Bridges moved, seconded by Palmer, to approve the addition of GR 4123/6123 Dynamics Meteorology II. The motion passed unanimously.

Chamblee stated that the Provost Office has requested the UCCC to give reason certain courses had not been approved for Intersession. Chamblee also gave members the opportunity to express their thoughts and concerns on Intersession. A copy of Chamblee's response is attached.

Wolverton moved, seconded by Ebanks, to adjourn at 3:45 p.m.

TO: Peter Rabideau, Provost
Jerry Gilbert, Associate Provost

FROM: Tim Chamblee
Chair, UCCC

DATE: September 15, 2005

RE: Course not approved for intersession

As requested, I asked members of the UCCC to provide reasons they disapproved courses for intersession. Members were also given the opportunity to express their opinions and concerns on intersession. The committee members expressed a strong concern that department faculty were not consulted on which courses would be offered during intersession. They also stated that courses should be required to be reconsidered each year. Additionally, the membership of the UCCC said they did not wish to reconsider any of the disapproved courses.

Below are specific responses on why members did not approve courses.

CO 1003 Fundamentals of Public Speaking

1. Shorten format does not provide enough time to develop skills.
2. Does not provide enough time to complete assignments or research speech topics.
3. Core course

PSY 1013 General Psychology

1. Foundational course to general education, standards should not be compromised.
2. 2 weeks is not enough time to learn material.

PSY 3213 Psychology of Abnormal Behavior

1. Not enough time to learn material
2. Course content too in-depth for 2 weeks of class.*

MA 4993 Applied Abstract Algebra

1. Because this is a special topics class there is no way to check if students have had prerequisites, or enough math to successfully complete course.
2. Time frame does not allow enough time to practice math skills
3. Was not approved by department faculty.*

PHI 1103 Intro to Philosophy

1. Material is too in-depth to cover in 2 weeks.*
2. Core course

PHI 1113 Intro to Logic

1. Core course
2. Course material was abbreviated*
3. Course content not suited for 2 weeks
4. Students do not have adequate time to develop skills for logical thinking.*

PS 1113 American Government

1. University core course
2. How can you teach "congress" in 4 hours? Course content must be weakened.

SO XXXX Sociology of Everyday Life

1. Improper course content for shortened format*
2. Ethical problems*

ART 1113 Art Appreciation

1. Students can not sit in a dark room for 4 hours each day looking at slides.*
2. No time for critical thinking.
3. Core course
4. Too much material to cover in 2 weeks.*

LA 1803 Landscape Architecture Appreciation

1. Not enough information on course content
2. Core course

LA 5544 Golf Course Architecture I

1. Four credit hour course
2. Significant difference in 2 week and 15 week course content
3. Too much material to learn in 2 weeks.

ACC 2103 Principles of Financial Accounting

1. Not enough time to grasp principles or content
2. Does not provide adequate time for assignments

EC 2113 Principles of Macroeconomics

Graduate students do not have sufficient teaching experience for 2 weeks

EC 2123 Principles of Microeconomics

1. Graduate students do not have sufficient teaching experience
2. Statement in proposal-not teaching for long term memory-is problematic.*
3. This is a prerequisite for other economics courses, students will need to know information longer than 2 weeks.

BQA 2113 Business Statistical Methods I

1. Core course
2. Too much math content for 2 weeks*

BL 2413 Legal Environment of Business

1. Two weeks is not enough time to cover course content
2. Prerequisite for other Business Law classes, content must be important

BIS 3233 Intro to Management Information Systems

1. Business core course, foundation of program*
2. Department faculty were not consulted*

MU 1113 Music Appreciation

1. Too much material to grasp in 2 weeks*
2. Too much historical information for 2 weeks*
3. Core course

* Comment made by faculty from department/discipline of course

General comments on intersession

Core courses are the foundation of our degree programs. If material is important enough to be required for all students then how can it be taught in two weeks? If a core course content is well suited for two weeks then maybe it shouldn't be a core course.

Why does Mississippi State have to follow what Ole Miss does? Our degrees should be of the highest possible quality, not sold out because of financial or peer pressure.

Generally students take classes in the summer because they think the classes will be easier. I believe that students will take intersession courses for the same reason. If the same academic standards are taught in a two week period, I'm afraid there will be a high failure rate. This in the long run puts students farther behind in their academic careers. On the reverse, if content is weakened to fit a two week schedule, we, MSU, are doing a disservice to our students.

If degree and major core courses can be taught in two weeks, why do we bother with traditional class schedules, classrooms and faculty? Are we to become the University of Phoenix-South?

Students are paying the same tuition rate for intersession courses as they pay for fall or spring courses therefore they should receive the same quality instruction.

There should be specific uniform guidelines on attendance for intersession courses.

I believe there is an ethical question in regard to intersession. If academic standards are not maintained, aren't we cheating?

From the comments made about specific courses and intersession in general, it is clear that faculty members consider the academic integrity of Mississippi State's curricula to be vital and it should not be compromised. Please contact me if you have questions.

Thank you.