# Academic Programs Subcommittee Meeting Minutes April 11th, 2023

**Voting members present:** Jennifer Donahue, Melissa Goldsmith, Dana Lema, Allison Lee, Dana Lema, Shujuan Li, Moe Momayez, Holly Nelson, Lisa Rezende, Paul Wagner

**Non-voting members present:** John Ehiri, Kacey Ernst, Frederick Lewis, Melanie Madden, John Pollard, Liz Sandoval, Leticia Soto-Delgadillo

**Voting members absent:** Pat Yango

1. Holly Nelson called the meeting to order at 3:32 PM with a quorum of 6 voting members at the

vote of members present.

1. Approval of March 14th, 2023, Minutes

Allison Lee moved to approve minutes. Paul Wagner seconded. Motion carried with 8 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstain.

1. New Action Items

**A. New Minor: Climate Change & Public Health (Public Health)**

Presented by John Ehiri & Kacey Ernst

Having just returned from the National Climate Assessment last week, it is very stark in my mind how important this topic is and the number of different fields that it touches. Individuals who will be involved in planning for the future, city government, and public health to medicine, dentistry, and medical fields will need to have a foundation and interdisciplinary understanding of climate science and its correlations and scientific underpinnings in relation to health, justice, and equity. The potential impact and forward-thinking nature of this undergrad major makes it something that be taken by people with multiple career objectives and provide them with a strong scientific as well as social exposure to the potential impacts that climate change will have on the population’s health and well-being.

This is part of the College of Public Health’s strategic plan moving forward and is the beginning of a series of initiatives that our college and the Health Center have developed pertaining to climate change and health. It is an area that our dean has written in support of. There is a desire from the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health in the U.S. for this area to be invested in by Deans of Public Health Colleges to make sure that training is provided not just for Public Health and Health Profession students, but for every Graduate from Universities across the United States. In creating this program, we have gone as far as identifying important courses not just within Public Health, but across the University of Arizona. For example, I have worked with the Director the School of Geography, Development & Environment within the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences as well as the Head of American Indian Studies. These courses are not only incorporated into the program as electives but are also offered among the core requirements. This will take advantage of the wide depth of knowledge and expertise on climate change among the University’s community. We expect the program to continue to evolve as more colleges across the University of Arizona invest in and add additional courses to this area with the ultimate goal of making sure we have the best possible curriculum that we can provide.

**Q:** Regarding the double dipping policy, there are only two majors that have been designated as being able to share credit. What was the rationale behind this?

**A:** We wanted to zero in on our own programs for now as we know that there could be issues for advisors in the future. We will revise that within the proposal to make sure it’s clear that individuals that need these other course requirements in other disciplines would also be able to do that.

**Q:** It looks like TPH 432 and AIS 403 are where one of your program requirements are assessed. However, when reviewing the proposal, it seemed that both of these courses are listed as optional. I was curious if this will be revised at some point to ensure that that outcome is assessed?

**A:** We wanted these courses to reference and call back to competencies and curriculum from earlier in the students course work, therefore we have left it optional with the intent that advisors will assist the students in determining which of the courses build off of their academic careers up to that point.

Committee member asks if the committee would need to consider the recent changes to Activity Informed Budgeting (AIB) taking effect in June in regard to non-majors and their ability to offer these programs in the situation they lack the funding. Curricular Affairs states that this committee is charged with assessing the academic integrity of the proposals while fiscal viability is reviewed by UCAAC. Holly will reach out to Greg Heilman to ask if this question can be addressed at the Full Council meeting or if he would be able to answer over email. Another committee member points out that this minor is fully online. While that may be good for accessibility, committee member expresses concern over the detriment of this teaching format in lieu of In-person offerings. Curricular Affairs responds, clarifying that while the program is fully offered online, students still have the option between both as most of the courses included are offered in-person on campus.

Paul Wagner moved to approve. Lisa Rezende seconded. Motion carried with 9 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstain.

**C. Disestablish: Intelligence Studies Minor (CAST)**

No discussion by committee.

Allison Lee moved to approve. Paul Wagner seconded. Motion carried with 8 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstain.

**E. Disestablish: Informatics Thematic Minor (CAST)**

No discussion by committee.

Paul Wagner moved to approve. Lisa Rezende seconded. Motion carried with 9 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstain.

**F. Disestablish: Pre-Health Thematic Minor (Science)**

Presented by Leticia Soto-Delgadillo

This minor has been around for a long time, pre-dating my start at the University 30 years ago. This minor was intended to be broad due to the lack of options across campus at the time it was introduced. It has now become obsolete due to the number of programs available to students interested in the health professions that may not be sciences, engineering, or any other hard-science majors. We currently only have 36 students enrolled in this minor, 21 of which are seniors and will be graduating at the end of this year. We currently only have 1 Freshman enrolled in the program, so we figured this would be a good time to initiate the disestablishment. The role of the Pre-Health Thematic Minor has also become obsolete due to student ability to now request a thematic minor in collaboration with their Major Advisor and tailor the program to their tastes. Offering this minor as an option only creates further confusion.

Committee member asks if there is a rule in place that requires colleges to review unused or low enrollment Majors and Minors and consider them for disestablishment on a reoccurring interval or if that is up to their own discretion. Members of the committee believe there is not a rule in place for minors, however, Majors must graduate 24 students every 3 years to continue being offered.

Dana Lema moved to approve. Lisa Rezende seconded. Motion carried with 9 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstain.

1. Old Business

**A. New Major: Bachelor of Creative Intelligence and Innovation (Honors)**

The committee previously listed UCAAC approval as a condition for their own approval of this proposal. UCAAC approval is currently pending. The subcommittee currently reviewing the proposal has some concerns that were brought forward to Honors. They will be meeting again on April 13th to vote on whether or not this proposal should be recommended to the full UCAAC council on April 25th.

Presented By John Pollard

The Associate Deans came to us with some questions we are currently addressing. There was a concern about HNRS 471,or *Initiatives and Entrepreneurship* as it is referred to within the curriculum, overlapping with another Entrepreneurship course offered by the McGuire Center for Entrepreneurship. Upon review, the course descriptions between both courses are completely different. We plan to change the name of the course to *Strategies and Initiatives*. The title will be more relevant to the content of the course with the goal being to approach entrepreneurship as a mindset that can be applied broadly across things like public art, non-profit, social justice, environmental justice, etc.

We were also asked why we would start with a major instead of a minor. A big factor in this decision was the fact that this is not a standalone major, it must be mapped onto another major in order to be taken. The model that allowed the BCII curriculum at UTS to succeed over the years is the one that we intend to evolve. Beginning with a minor instead of a major wouldn’t give us the anchoring point we would need to compete in the job market in regard to the 93% of students who received highly paying jobs following their completion of the BCII curriculum at UTS. Additionally, we want to set ourselves apart from other Honors Colleges across the United States. For us to be able to recruit the top students to all of our programs, we need to be positioning ourselves with unique opportunities for students.

The Associate Deans also had some questions on how we intend to deal with double-dipping limits. The number of units that Honors students most often come into the college allows them to complete their GE meaning that there is plenty of space for students to be able to complete this degree. There are many students who have graduated from the honors college within 4 years with double and triple minors, this is not unheard of.

We were asked what implications this proposal would have on our collaborative recruitment efforts. We feel that this is going to be a bonus for many potential students. We believe the future of Honors education should be an enhancement to the undergraduate experience, students will be drawn in by our signature programs. We need to be able to provide a menu of innovative and proven programs that are forward-thinking for our students. ABOR is currently looking to have the University of Arizona be positioned as the elite institution among the 3 and we believe Honors will have a central role to play in this. We believe we have the ability to grow from 4,000 students to 5,000 students with the addition of these offers. We were asked about plans for an international-dual degree with the University of Sydney. We do not currently have plans for that right now, but we are intending on building out our study abroad experience with them in the future.

Finally, we were asked about potential profit motivations. We have a budget of about $5.2 million to serve 4,000 students with a faculty number of 40. In comparison, ASU currently has a budget of $22 million, 7,000 and a faculty number of 140. We run our college very efficiently and intend to use any additional profits to support, grow, and have the honors college serve the institution in the way it is supposed to.

Member of the committee notes that it seems most of the questions and concerns brought up by the Associate Deans have had a not yet had resolution. Most of the answers given by the Honors College indicate that these concerns will be addressed with future changes. Other members of the committee agree, one specifically saying they don’t feel like concerns from the previous meeting over it being a non-standalone major and the degree being exclusionary and not fitting in with the University’s values of inclusivity has also not been adequately addressed. Committee members express discomfort in these smaller issues not being ironed out before presenting to the Senate and ABOR. One member believes this major will allow students to view their second major in a different light and foster creative thinking about the challenges presented. Another member agrees with this point but argues that the same could be accomplished with a minor.

Allison Lee moved to approve. Dana Lema seconded. Motion carries with 5 yeas, 1 nay, 3 abstain.

Holly will reach out to Claudia about discussing the proposal further at the UGC.

1. Holly Nelson adjourned the meeting at 4:29pm

*Respectfully prepared by Frederick Lewis*