

SENATE UNDERGRAD COUNCIL

TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2024

12:30 P.M. EST

NH 3318 / Zoom

[Governing Documents and Resources](#)

TIMING	AGENDA ITEM	PAGE	ACTION
	OPEN SESSION		
12:30 p.m. (5 mins)	1. Conflict of Interest	3	Declaration
	2. Minutes of February 5, 2024 Meeting	4	Decision (SUC)
	3. Business Arising from the Minutes	Oral	Input
	Consent Agenda		
	<i>Motion: To approve the items on the consent agenda, listed as item 4a below.</i>		
	4. Curricular Submissions	7	
	a. Faculty of Science (Laura Deakin)	8	Decision (SUC)
	Regular Agenda		
12:35 p.m. (10 mins)	5. Academic Program Reviews		
	a. Progress Report: Spanish, Latin American Literatures and Cultures, and Spanish/English Translation (Monica Leoni)	18	Decision (SUC)
12:45 p.m. (5 mins)	6. Curricular Submissions	27	
	a. Faculty of Science (Laura Deakin)	28	Decision (SEN-C)
12:50 p.m. (45 mins)	7. Cyclical Review of Stand Alone Minors and Undergrad Diplomas (David DeVidi, Maysah Eid & Sukhmeet Singh Bedi)	Oral	Input
	8. Other Business	Oral	Input
	9. Adjournment	Oral	Input

“Decision (SUC)” to be approved on behalf of Senate

“Decision (SEN-C)” to be recommended to Senate for approval (consent agenda)

“Decision (SEN-R)” to be recommended to Senate for approval (regular agenda)

February 27, 2024

 Tim Weber-Kraljevski
 Governance Officer
 Secretary to SUC

Important Dates

8 April 2024 Senate Meeting

Excerpt from Senate Bylaw 1

8. Declarations of conflict of interest

8.01	At the beginning of each meeting of Senate or any of Senate’s committees or councils, the chair will call for members to declare any conflicts of interest with regard to any agenda item. For agenda items to be discussed in closed session, the chair will call for declarations of conflict of interest at the beginning of the closed portion of the meeting. Members may nonetheless declare conflicts at any time during a meeting.
8.02	A member shall be considered to have an actual, perceived or potential conflict of interest, when the opportunity exists for the member to use confidential information gained as a member of Senate, or any of Senate’s committees or councils, for the personal profit or advantage of any person, or use the authority, knowledge or influence of the Senate, or a committee or council thereof, to further her/his personal, familial or corporate interests or the interests of an employee of the university with whom the member has a marital, familial or sexual relationship.
8.03	Members who declare conflicts of interest shall not enter into debate nor vote upon the specified item upon which they have declared a conflict of interest. The chair will determine whether it is appropriate for said member to remove themselves from the meeting for the duration of debate on the specified item(s).
8.04	Where Senate or a committee or council of Senate is of the opinion that a conflict of interest exists that has not been declared, the body may declare by a resolution carried by two-thirds of its members present at the meeting that a conflict of interest exists and a member thus found to be in conflict shall not enter into debate on the specified item upon which they have declared a conflict of interest. The chair will determine whether it is appropriate for said member to remove themselves from the meeting for the duration of debate on the specified item(s).

University of Waterloo
SENATE UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL
Minutes of the February 5, 2024 Meeting
[in agenda order]

Present: Katherine Acheson, Janice Aurini, Maya Baboolal, Victoria Chu, Cecilia Cotton, David DeVidi (chair) Laura Deakon, Leeann Ferries, Zev Friedman, Jason Grove, Fatma Gzara, Alysia Kolentsis, Carol Ann MacGregor, Kristiina Montero, Rory Norris, Helena Shilomboleni, Theodore Thompson, Ryan Trelford, Chris Vigna, Johanna Wandel, Tim Weber-Kraljevski (secretary), Richard Wikkerink.

Resources/Guests: Rania Al Hammoud, Brianna Bennett, Annik Bilodeau, Jennifer Coghlin, Anne-Marie Fannon, Danielle Jeanneault, Martin Karsten, Ondrej Lhotak, Carrie MacKinnon, Ting Tsui.

Absent: Vivian Dayeh, Viv Hoang, Catherine Newell Kelly*, Charvi Patel, Nigharika Senthil Kumar.
*Regrets

Organization of Meeting: David DeVidi took the chair, and Tim Weber-Kraljevski acted as secretary. The secretary advised that a quorum was present. The agenda was approved without formal motion.

1. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were declared.

2. APPROVAL OF THE 21 NOVEMBER 2023 MINUTES

The minutes were approved without formal motions.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The Chair informed members that the progress report for Global Business and Digital Arts, and Digital Experience Innovation was revised as requested.

CONSENT AGENDA

Grove requested the following revisions to item 4b: add department drop consent to MSCI 263, MSCI 332, MSCI 342, MSCI 431, and MSCI 436. Acheson requested a revision to item 4a, to add the proposed title change of "Crime and Public Policy" to LS 403. A motion was heard to approve consent agenda as revised. Ferries and Deakon. Carried.

4. CURRICULAR SUBMISSIONS

Council approved items a-f as presented, with noted revisions.

REGULAR AGENDA

5. ACADEMIC PROGRAM REIVEWS

a. Final Assessment Report: Civil Engineering, Environmental Engineering, Geological Engineering, and Water Resources. Al Hammoud presented a brief overview of the report. Members discussed: strategies by the program to address recommendation 3 and successes; approaches taken by the program to address the challenges of internet-banked assignments and cheating; and the program's response to recommendation 2. Al Hammoud left the meeting.

b. Final Assessment Report: Computer Science, Computer Science – Data Science, Business. Karsten and Lhotak presented a brief overview of the report, noting the following error in the report: under "Bachelor of Mathematics –

Major in Computer Science [BMath (CS)]", it is stated: "Students are admitted to the BMath program and declare a major in Computer Science starting in second year" but is a direct-entry program. Members discussed: adding more CS courses to the list that non-Computer Science students can take, while balancing challenges with the limited resources to meet demand for these courses. Karten and Lhotak left the meeting.

c. Final Assessment Report: Nanotechnology Engineering. Tsui presented a brief overview of the report. Members discussed: revising the report to update responses on recommendations that the committee feel are not appropriate, to ensure it is clear that the program is not agreeing that there is an issue, particularly with recommendations 3 and 10. Tsui left the meeting.

A motion was heard to approve the Final Assessment Reports on behalf of Senate, subject to the noted corrections and revisions. Deakon and Cotton. Carried with one abstention.

6. CURRICULAR SUBMISSIONS

- a. Engineering.** Grove provided an overview of the report. A motion was heard to recommend Senate approve the following as presented: creation of a Human Factors & Interfaces Specialization, an Intelligent & Automated Systems Specialization, a Physical & Mechatronic Systems Specialization, and a Societal & Environmental Systems Specialization within Systems Design Engineering; the creation of the Quantum Engineering Option; the inactivation of the International Studies in Engineering Option and the Society, Technology and Values Option; and the regulation revisions to the Dean's Honours List. Grove and Acheson. Carried.
- b. Environment.** Wandel provided an overview of the report. A motion was heard to recommend Senate approve the proposed academic regulation revisions to the Invalid Credential Combinations for the Faculty of Environment's Business Option and Sustainability Financial Management, as presented. Wandel and Ferries.
- c. Science.** Deakon provided an overview of the report. A motion was heard to recommend Senate approve the creation of the proposed the Microbiology Option and the Cell and Molecular Biology Option, as presented. Deakon and Vigna. Carried.

7. KUALI PRESENTATION

Tim and Danielle presented on the update to the SUC and Subcommittee processes for curriculum submissions and gave a demonstration for members how to use the Kuali software. Members discussed: concerns with timelines, how commenting works with Kuali, and the number of email notification from Kuali.

8. EVIDENCE BASED TEACHING

Bennett and Bilodeau presented on the Learning Innovation & Teaching Enhancement (LITE) Grants, highlighting the Generative AI and Flipped Classroom Model in Large Engineering Classes project. Fannon spoke to the Work-Learn Institute (WxL), highlighting recent studies: Gen Z values and work preferences and exploring the value propositions of Recreation and Leisure Studies (RLS). Member discussed: how Waterloo can make better use of the evidence gathered from the LITE grants and WxL studies; how to better disseminate and share this research; having Faculties more involved in scoping research projects; the roles of teaching stream faculty and the Teaching Innovation Incubator; the need to connect faculty members across campus; and the CTE tip sheet and other resources for teaching.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

10. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting is Tuesday, March 5, 2024, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. in NH 3318.

February 27, 2023

Tim Weber-Kraljevski
Governance Officer

For Approval**Consent Agenda****Open Session**

To: **Senate Undergraduate Council**

Sponsor: David DeVidi, Associate Vice-President, Academic
Contact Information: david.devidi@uwaterloo.ca

Presenter: David DeVidi, Associate Vice-President, Academic
Contact Information: david.devidi@uwaterloo.ca

Date of Meeting: **March 5, 2024**

Agenda Item Identification: **Approval of Curricular Items on Behalf of Senate**

Recommendation/Motion:

To approval the included curricular items on behalf of Senate, as presented.

Summary:

The SUC Curriculum Subcommittee has reviewed and agreed, via an e-vote which closed on February 27, 2024, to recommend to SUC for approval as part of the consent agenda, the items included in the appendix of this report. These items include minor plan changes, new courses, course changes, and course inactivations for the Faculty of Arts, the Faculty of Engineering, the Faculty of Environment, the Faculty of Health, the Faculty of Science, and the Faculty of Mathematics.

Documents Included:

- Appendix A: Faculty of Science

Appendix A: Faculty of Science

SCIENCE UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE REPORT MARCH 2024 SENATE UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL (SUC) – Consent agenda

1 COURSE CHANGES

1.1 Chemistry

1.2 Earth Sciences

1.3 Pharmacy

1.4 Physics

1.5 Science

2 COURSE INACTIVATIONS

2.1 Science

3 ACADEMIC PLAN CHANGES (Minor)

3.1 Honours Environmental Sciences, Water Science Specialization (Regular and Co-operative)

3.2 Honours Physics plans (Regular and Co-operative)

3.3 Honours BSc Mathematical Physics (Regular and Co-operative)

3.3 Courses- Course Grades and Credits **Remove this 3.3 item (on reg agenda)**

3.4 Courses- Online Courses

3.4 Science Minors and Options

1 COURSE CHANGES

1.1 Chemistry

CHEM 404

(Department approval Feb. 27, 2023)

1.2 Earth Sciences

EARTH 458

(Department approval April 11, 2023)

1.3 Pharmacy

PHARM 326

(Pharmacy Council approval May 18, 2023)

1.4 Physics

PHYS 175

(Department approval July 2022)

1.5 Science

SCI 230, 238

(Department approval for SCI 230, April 2023; Department approval for SCI 238, July 2022)

2 COURSE INACTIVATIONS

2.1 Science

SCI 237

(Department approval July 2022)

3. ACADEMIC PLAN CHANGES (Minor)

3.1 Honours Environmental Sciences, Water Science Specialization (Regular and Co-operative)

Motion: To remove CHEM 404 as an optional program elective to EARTH 421, for the Water Science Specializations of the Environmental Sciences plans.

Effective Date: September 1, 2024

Background and Rationale: The Chemistry department has recognized that students without a background in thermodynamics and basis organic chemistry, often struggle in CHEM 404, failing it or withdrawing from it. As such, CHEM 254 and one of the introductory organic chemistry courses are added as prerequisites for CHEM 404, effective September 1, 2024. Students in the Water Science specialization plans must choose a 0.5-unit program elective between CHEM 404 and EARTH 421, and these plans do not include CHEM 254 or an introductory organic chemistry course as requirements. The update to CHEM 404 essentially eliminates the choice for Water Science students unless they consume 1.0 unit of their 3.5 elective units for the new prerequisites for CHEM 404.

Traditionally, students in the Water Science plans select EARTH 421 over CHEM 404 (4 out of 6 in fall 2021 and 8 out of 10 in fall 2022), and data supports that half of the few students who initially chose CHEM 404 over EARTH 421 withdrew from it. With the new prerequisite being added to it, CHEM 404 will be removed as a program elective from the Water Science plans, and EARTH 421 will become required, increasing the total required EARTH units from 5.25 to 5.75 and removing the 0.5 program elective unit.

Calendar text changes (capturing Feb 2024 approved changes):

Successful completion requires:

1. 21.5 units distributed as follows:
 - 4.25 BIOL units: BIOL 150, BIOL 165, BIOL 240, BIOL 240L, BIOL 241, BIOL 350, BIOL 351, BIOL 354, BIOL 447
 - 0.5 BIOL unit: BIOL 312 or BIOL 470
 - 2.0 CHEM units: CHEM 120, CHEM 120L, CHEM 123, CHEM 123L, CHEM 220
 - ~~5.75~~~~5.25~~ EARTH units: EARTH 121, EARTH 121L, EARTH 122, EARTH 122L, EARTH 123, EARTH 221, EARTH 223, EARTH 342, EARTH 355, EARTH 421, EARTH 444/BIOL 462, EARTH 458, EARTH 458L
 - 0.5 PHYS unit: PHYS 111
 - 1.5 BIOL or EARTH elective units chosen from: BIOL 361, BIOL 450, EARTH 439, EARTH 456, EARTH 459
 - ~~0.5 program elective unit: CHEM 404 or EARTH 421~~
 - 0.5 ERS unit: ERS 316
 - 1.5 GEOG unit: GEOG 305, GEOG 407, GEOG 453/PLAN 453
 - 0.5 MATH unit: MATH 127
 - 0.5 STAT unit: STAT 202
 - 0.5 unit: COMMST 193/ENGL 193
 - 3.5 elective lecture course units
2. Co-operative program requirements (when applicable).

Section should be 3.2

2.2 Honours Physics plans (Regular and Co-operative)

Motion: To list the specific first year BIOL or EARTH courses that can substitute the CHEM 120, 120L and 123 requirements for the following plans:

- Honours Physics (regular and co-op)
- Honours Physics and Astronomy (regular and co-op)
- Honours BSc Mathematical Physics (regular and co-op)

Effective Date: September 1, 2024

Background and Rationale: For more than 15 plus years these Physics plans have listed first-year chemistry as a science requirement, with a note indicating that the chemistry courses could be substituted by first-year biology or earth sciences. Since it really does not matter which first-year science a student in these programs completes alongside their first-year physics courses, all options should be listed under the requirements to be clear that any one set of lecture and lab courses in the one science area can satisfy the requirement.

Students can complete 1.25 units chosen from: CHEM 120, 120L, CHEM 123, 123L; EARTH 121, 121L, EARTH 122, 122L; 100- or 200-level BIOL courses with associated labs where applicable, excluding BIOL 225 and BIOL 280 (BIOL 110, 130/130L, 150, 165, 201, 211, 220, 239, 240/240L, 241, 251, or 273), to meet their second first-year science requirement for these plans.

Calendar text changes:

- ~~○ 1.25 CHEM units: CHEM 120, CHEM 120L, CHEM 123, or Year One BIOL or EARTH courses~~
- 1.25 units chosen from: CHEM 120, 120L, CHEM 123, 123L; EARTH 121, 121L, EARTH 122, 122L; BIOL 110, 130/130L, 150, 165, 201, 211, 220, 239, 240/240L, 241, 251, or 273

Section should be 3.3

2.3 Honours BSc Mathematical Physics (Regular and Co-operative)

Motion: To remove the 'Additional condition' note, "A maximum of 3.0 SCI units may be counted", from the Honours BSc Mathematical Physics plans.

Effective date: September 1, 2024

Background and Rationale: Requirements for Honours BSc Mathematical Physics plans include a maximum of 2.0 elective units, making it impossible to count more than 3.0 or more SCI units towards the plans.

Calendar text changes:

~~Additional condition:
A maximum of 3.0 SCI units may be counted.~~

Section should be 3.4

2.4 Science Minors and Options

Motion: To explicitly state the intended audience for both the Biochemistry and Biology minors, and to make the Bioinformatics option available to students in General Science program

Effective Date: September 1, 2024

Background and Rationale: Per the fall 2018 Senate approved guidelines for minors, options, diplomas and certificates, minors are supposed to be open to all students in all degree-granting programs, and options are supposed to be open to all students in all degree-granting programs within the faculty. Currently, the Biochemistry and Biology minors do not state the intended audience, and the Bioinformatics option states that it is available to all students in BSc Honours programs, within the faculty, which excludes the General Science program.

A grand-fathering rule was put in place so that plans didn't need immediate update to meet the approved guidelines. Since the guidelines have been in place for several years now, changes to the

Biochemistry Minor, Biology Minor, and Bioinformatics Option are being brought forward now to bring these two minors and one option, in line with the guidelines.

Calendar text Changes (capturing Feb 2024 approved changes):

To add to the Biology Minor:

The Biology Minor is available to students in most academic plan, except for plans offered entirely by, or jointly with the Department of Biology.

Successful completion of the Biology Minor requires:

1. 5.0 units of BIOL with the following condition:
 - o 2.5 units must be BIOL at 300-level or higher
2. A minimum cumulative Biology average of 60%.

Before declaring this academic plan, see invalid credential combinations.

To add to the Biochemistry Minor:

The Biochemistry Minor is available to students in Biology and Chemistry plans who do not qualify for a minor in the other discipline, and to students in most other academic plans.

Successful completion of the Biochemistry Minor requires:

1. 5.0 units distributed as follows:
 - o 1.0 BIOL unit: BIOL 130, BIOL 240
 - o 2.0 CHEM units: CHEM 233, CHEM 264, CHEM 265, CHEM 331
 - o 1.0 BIOL elective unit chosen from: BIOL 331, BIOL 354, BIOL 428, BIOL 431, BIOL 434, BIOL 438, BIOL 439, BIOL 448
 - o 1.0 CHEM elective unit chosen from: CHEM 357, CHEM 430, CHEM 432, CHEM 433
2. A minimum cumulative Biology average of 60% and a minimum cumulative Chemistry average of 60%.

Notes

1. CHEM 237, CHEM 266, CHEM 267, and CHEM 333 normally will not count towards the Biochemistry Minor.
2. Before declaring this academic plan, see invalid credential combinations.

To update for the Bioinformatics Option:

The Bioinformatics Option is available to Bachelor of Science, ~~honours~~ students within the Faculty of Science.

Background and Rationale: The current page suggests that a substitution of online courses for an on-campus course is permitted if the on-campus version is unavailable or there is a time conflict. Since the mode of delivery has no bearing on the way in which a student gains credit to any course, and now that courses are delivered on-campus, online, and even in blended versions which use both delivery modes, this page is obsolete.

Calendar Text Changes:

~~Online Courses~~

~~Students may substitute online courses if the on-campus version is not available or scheduling problems make it impossible to enrol in the on-campus version.~~

COURSE CHANGES (for approval)

Chemistry

Current Catalog Information

CHEM 404 (0.50) LEC, TUT Physicochemical Aspects of Natural Waters

Properties of water; chemicals in the environment; environmental fate of inorganic and organic pollutants; basic phenomena affecting the fate of water pollutants (vapor pressure; activity, solubility, partitioning, diffusion, sorption); acids and bases in water; dissolved carbon dioxide; trace metals in water. [Offered: F or W]

No Special Consent Required

Requisites :

Prereq: CHEM 120, 123 or CHEM 121, 125; Level at least 3A

Effective 01-SEP-2024

Requisite Change :

Prereq: One of: (CHEM 120, 123), (CHEM 121, 125); CHEM 254; One of: CHEM 262, 264, 266

Rationale :

CHEM 404 builds heavily on the foundations of thermodynamics and basic organic chemistry concepts. With the current prerequisites, the course attracts many students from programs which do not require this knowledge. These students usually struggle with the course material, with a significant number withdrawing from the course, and some failing it. Adding CHEM 254 and one of the introductory organic chemistry courses as prerequisites will clarify the expectations and increase the chances of student success.

Earth and Environmental Sciences

Current Catalog Information

EARTH 458 (0.50) LEC Physical Hydrogeology

An introduction to physical hydrogeology, including Darcy's law, the groundwater flow equations for steady-state and transient conditions, applications to flow nets, aquifer testing, groundwater resources, and groundwater protection. The role of groundwater in the hydrologic cycle is explored with emphasis on natural groundwater flow systems and their influence on stream flow. Physical processes controlling groundwater contamination are introduced. [Note: EARTH 123 is recommended as a prerequisite. Offered: F,S]

No Special Consent Required

Requisites :

Prereq: One of EARTH (121 and 121L), (122 and 122L), CIVE 153, ENVE 153, GEOE 153

Effective 01-SEP-2024

Description Change:

An introduction to physical hydrogeology, including Darcy's law, the groundwater flow equations for steady-state and transient conditions, applications to flow nets, aquifer testing, groundwater resources, and

groundwater protection. The role of groundwater in the hydrologic cycle is explored with emphasis on natural groundwater flow systems and their influence on stream flow. Physical processes controlling groundwater contamination are introduced.

Requisite Change :

Prereq: EARTH 123 and one of EARTH (121 and 121L), (122 and 122L); or, one of CIVE 153, ENVE 153, GEOE 153

Rationale :

New curriculum software will no longer include notes as part of the course description, and although it is currently listed as a recommendation that students have EARTH 123 prior to EARTH 458, it was felt that student success in an upper year hydrology course would benefit from having the introductory hydrology prerequisite, in addition to an introductory environmental or earth sciences prerequisite, and therefore, EARTH 123 is required with either EARTH 121/121L or EARTH 122/122L for EARTH 458.

Pharmacy - School of

Current Catalog Information

PHARM 326 (0.50) LEC Institutional Pharmacy Practice

This course offers insight into how organizations/institutions manage patient health. It examines the structure, governance, and delivery of services within health systems such as primary care, family health teams, acute care, home care, and long-term care facilities. Processes within health care institutions for optimizing management of patients, operations, facilities, and medications are all addressed. [Offered: W]

No Special Consent Required

Requisites :

Prereq: Pharmacy students only. Coreq: PHARM 329

Effective 02-SEP-2024

Description Change:

This course offers insight into how healthcare institutions deliver care and provides an overview of basic clinical topics common to many of these settings. It examines the structure, governance, and delivery of services within institutional health systems such as acute and long-term care facilities. Common clinical topics, such as safe and appropriate administration of intravenous fluids, nutrition, and medication will be discussed. [Offered: W]

Rationale :

To streamline the pharmacy practice curriculum and avoid overlap, discussion of the structure and governance of home care, primary care, and family health teams was removed. These topics are addressed elsewhere (i.e., PHARM 120). Based on feedback from institutional stakeholders, a review of common clinical topics was added to address gaps in students' foundational therapeutic knowledge.

Physics & Astronomy

Current Catalog Information

PHYS 175 (0.50) LEC Introduction to the Universe

A survey course in astrophysics intended for Physics and Astronomy students.

Astrophysical processes, the sky, the Sun, stars, black holes, the Milky Way and

other galaxies, Big Bang cosmology. [Note: students in Honours Physics and Astronomy programs must also take PHYS 175L; Offered: W]

No Special Consent Required

Requisites :

Prereq: One of PHYS 111,115,121; one of MATH 116, 117, 127, 137,147.

Antireq: SCI 237, 238

Effective 01-SEP-2024

Description Change:

A survey course in astrophysics intended for Physics and Astronomy students. Astrophysical processes, the sky, the Sun, stars, black holes, the Milky Way and other galaxies, Big Bang cosmology. [Offered: W]

Requisite Change :

Prereq: One of PHYS 111,115,121; one of MATH 116, 117, 127, 137,147.

Antireq: SCI 238

Rationale :

SCI 237 has not been offered in 5 years and will become inactive September 1, 2024; therefore, it is being removed as an antirequisite. In addition, the description note regarding the associated lab, PHYS 175L, is also removed, as program requirements will indicate whether PHYS 175L is mandatory.

Dean of Science Office

Current Catalog Information

SCI 230 (0.50) FLD

Global Aspects of Technological Innovation and Entrepreneurship

This course features a combination of academic study, group work, and field trips in Southern Ontario and Israel. The course focuses on cultural exchange and team work.

Students will examine different approaches to transforming scientific innovations into useful products.

[Note: This concentrated 18-day block course, open to Science students and/or Velocity Science members, is offered at the end of the spring term examination period. The course incurs a \$1,000 field trip cost and is intended for students with limited direct experience with Israel. Selection criteria apply. More course information detail can be found online; Offered: S, F]

Department Consent Required

Requisites :

Prereq: Level at least 2A

Effective 01-SEP-2024

Description Change:

This concentrated 18-day block course features a combination of academic study, group work, and field trips in Southern Ontario and Israel. The course focuses on cultural exchange and experiential learning on technological scientific innovation and entrepreneurship where students will interact with companies with a global impact. Students will examine different approaches to transforming scientific innovations into useful products.

Rationale :

The course description is updated to better reflect course intent and content, and to include course duration. The course notes are eliminated entirely, residing primarily on a web page detailing information associated with this field course. The fact that additional course fees are associated with SCI 230 will be visible with the new Quali software, but not as a note associated with the description.

Current Catalog Information

SCI 238 (0.50) LEC Introductory Astronomy
A survey course in astronomy intended for Mathematics, Engineering, and Science students. The solar system, the Sun and planets, stars, the Milky Way, galaxies, and cosmology. [Note: Students with a strong background in physics and mathematics should consider PHYS 175 instead of SCI 238. Offered: W,S; also offered online: F]

No Special Consent Required

Requisites :

Antireq: PHYS 175, SCI 237

Effective 01-SEP-2024

Description Change:

A survey course in astronomy. The solar system, the Sun and planets, stars, the Milky Way, galaxies, and cosmology. [Offered: W,S; also offered online: F]

Requisite Change :

Antireq: PHYS 175

Rationale :

The description note suggesting students with background in physics and mathematics select PHYS 175 over SCI 238, is removed. In addition, the SCI 237 antirequisite is removed as SCI 237 becomes inactive September 1, 2024, and it has not been offered in the last 5 years.

COURSE INACTIVATIONS (for approval)

Effective 01-SEP-2024

SCI 237 (0.50)

Rationale :

Exploring the Universe

SCI 237 has not been offered for the last five years and covers similar material currently covered in SCI 238 and PHYS 175, with all three courses listing each other as an antirequisite. Only PHYS 175 requires a background in physics and mathematics, while the SCI courses do not. Inactivation of SCI 237 will still leave students with different backgrounds, an option to access an astronomy course, and has no impact on any programs, as it is only listed as an exclusion to science courses which can be counted towards the Honours Science, General Science, Honours Science and Aviation, as well as joint Honours Arts with Science plans.

End of Report

Two-Year Progress Report

Spanish (BA, Minor), Latin American Literatures and Cultures (Minor), Spanish/English Translation (Minor, Diploma)

June 2022

Background

The Department of Spanish and Latin American Studies completed their most recent cyclical review in the Fall of 2019. A group of consultants visited with department members and several undergraduate students on campus November 14-15, 2019. The team of consultants included Dr. Ketty Zaffra, Ryerson University, Dr. Sophie Lavoie, University of New Brunswick, and Dr. Susan Elliot, Geography and Environmental Management, University of Waterloo.

During their visit the consultants were able to meet with all departmental members, Acting Dean, Dr. Linda Warley, and Associate Vice President, Academic, Dr. David DeVidi. The Review team also enjoyed a meeting over lunch with several students taking courses in the Department at the time.

The team of consultants found all programs “to be in good standing (especially the BA and the Minor in Spanish) but only due to the hard work of its few members. Waterloo’s goal of “advancing research for global impact” finds its *only* home for the study of Latin America in the SLAS department, where various researchers are advancing nationally and internationally recognized research agendas while actively trying to create cross-disciplinary ties to bring this expertise to other departments (one faculty member mentioned recently-found ties to Cultural Anthropology). The Reviewers find this lack of expertise on Latin America in other departments unexpected, given the proximity and strong ties to the continent. Thus, the importance of the work done in the SLAS is seen to be fundamental to the global breadth of the research and teaching done at Waterloo.

The Department was grateful to receive recommendations for action from the Review Team, and outline below some of the steps they have taken thus far.

Enrollment over the past two years

	Honours	Co-op	Minors	Number of Enrollments (UG)
2021-2022	8	3	15	911
2020-2021	7	0	20	944

Please note that the Latin American and Cultures Minor, as well as the Minor/Diploma in Spanish-English Translation have been deactivated.

Progress on Implementation Plan

Recommendations

1. ***SLAS urgently needs a tenure-track position to fulfil program requirements and solve an unsustainable situation in the department. Perhaps the Faculty of Arts could consider a renewal of the definite-term position with the possibility of conversion into a tenure-track position once the hiring freeze is over.***

Status: Incomplete

Details: The Definite Term Appointment was renewed in March of 2020, just before the COVID crisis, and this contract will end in July of 2023. The colleague currently holding this position teaches 7 courses a year and also carries out some service for the Department. Spanish and Latin American Studies would like to resume the conversation with the Dean of Arts Office and explore the option to open a Tenure Track position so as to search for a candidate whose work would be interdisciplinary and could contribute to a number of different initiatives.

The Department's struggles to divide service duties amongst 3 tenure stream members, while also participating in faculty-level programs, such as Arts First continue but all colleagues are determined to contribute in any way possible. Moreover, the Department is continuing to build new programming, such as the [Cultural Identities](#) (CI) program. The Department remains hopeful that the Faculty will soon be in a stronger financial situation and that the position lost to a retirement in 2017 will be reinstated.

2. *Hire a full-time Administrative Assistant who is at the front lines of the Department.*

Status: Incomplete

Details:

The Department has always only had a .5 position in the Administrative Manager role. For many years they shared a person with Classical Studies, so although Spanish and Latin American Studies only had an assistant for half of the work week, there was a presence in the office 40 hours a week, and the time was split between the two units. When Classical Studies was awarded a 1.0 position in the role, the shared assistant took the spot and Spanish and Latin American Studies continued with the 0.5.

There has been a good deal of staff turnover in recent years, as people accept the position and then move on to full time work elsewhere in the University. The Department has lost 4 people since 2018, which has presented challenges for faculty and students alike. At the moment they have someone in the role who is covering for a colleague who left for a full-time secondment six months after she was hired in Spanish.

In truth, the workload seems manageable, particularly because colleagues are continuing to work from home. The challenges surface when people return to campus, and colleagues have access to an Administrative Manager only between the hours of 10 am and 2 pm. Colleagues and students seeking assistance outside of those hours are met with a closed door, and this creates a solemn atmosphere in the Department.

3. *Solve the Conversation Class Issue.*

Status: Completed

Details: Over the last two years the Department has been able to hire a Sessional Instructor whose directive is to run the Conversation Classes from first to third year. Despite the challenges that COVID has introduced the Department has successfully offered synchronous online conversation classes on a weekly basis with all students studying in our program. The sessional hired is outstanding, is a native speaker of Spanish, and holds a PhD in Criminology. They meet and work with over 200 students every week and their evaluations speak to a dynamic, thoughtful, and creative teacher. The Department feels fortunate to have them on the team and look forward to the Faculty's ongoing support of this important position.

4. *Market programs in creative ways to attract students.*

Status: Completed

Details: The Department has an active presence on Twitter, Instagram and FaceBook, and they will continue to be active on these platforms. Faculty members have also contacted several alumni and have been working with Creative Services to create a [video highlighting what some of their alumni](#) have been doing since graduating with a degree from the Department.

With the help of our CTSAs (Course and Technical Support Assistants) the Department has also created videos to help promote activities and courses and have shared these widely across campus and on social media. Please visit these links to see some of the work done to promote two new offerings, [SPAN 329](#) and [SPAN 344](#).

Finally, in light of the remote reality, faculty members have also held departmental Town Hall meetings to give students currently enrolled in their courses and plans the opportunity to get their questions answered in real time with staff and faculty. These have been well attended and offer the students the chance to connect outside of a “remote” classroom setting.

Evidence of the Department’s activity on social media can be found here:

<https://twitter.com/UWaterlooSLAS>

<https://www.instagram.com/uwaterlooslas/>

<https://www.facebook.com/uwslas>

Address any significant developments or initiatives that have arisen since the program review process, or that were not contemplated during the review

The Department of Spanish and Latin American Studies was thrilled to learn that it had been selected to participate in the [PRAGDA Film Festival](#) in 2019-2020. The festival will be running again in Winter 2022 and the screenings will complement the cinema course, SPAN 329.

This is very much a community event, as the festival is run in collaboration with the Kitchener Public Library (KPL). Before the pandemic hit, the Department was able to screen the movies in their space where members of the K-W community came to enjoy the films and the follow-up discussion that was moderated by a faculty member. The challenges introduced by COVID were quickly resolved through online streaming offered by the staff at the KPL. The links to the movie

screenings have been shared across the world and the Department has been amazed to hear from people all over enjoy the movies and participate in the live chats that they have facilitated via Zoom on opening night. The Department is grateful to the Dean of Arts for their support of this initiative.

Please see [this promotional link](#) for this year's upcoming festival.

Report on anything else you believe is appropriate to bring to Senate concerning this program

1. Although the Review Team did not specifically recommend that the Department make substantive adjustments to the various academic plans, after much consultation Spanish and Latin American Studies introduced several fundamental changes. Faculty members understand that the Faculty is looking for all departments to streamline their plans with a view to making them more flexible for and more accessible to students. The Department also understands that students are keen to learn in interdisciplinary ways and that the language of instruction in upper-year courses can create a barrier to those who may want to learn more about the Hispanic world, but who may not have the linguistic sophistication to engage with lectures and assignments in Spanish. After a great deal of discussion, colleagues decided to move away from a program focused on traditional Literary Studies, offered mostly in Spanish, and have opted to teach content through a Cultural Studies lens. This change is also reflected in the language of instruction. While Spanish and Latin American Studies will continue to offer all levels of language courses to hundreds of students every term, senior content courses are now offered in English and will hopefully open the pathway for students across the Faculty of Arts, and perhaps beyond, to engage in all offerings. The hope is that SLAS courses can now also be “cross-listed” or “held with” other departments and that students can then choose to combine Spanish and Latin American Studies more easily with other majors.

In the way of curriculum streamlining, the Department also decided to deactivate their Latin American Literatures and Cultures Minor as well as all plans in the area of Spanish / English Translation (Specialization and Minor). There has been a significant drop in the number of students pursuing these Minors over the last several years and they no longer appear in the calendar.

2. An exciting development recently came to be in the way of a new partnership with colleagues launching the Black Studies program. The African diaspora has had a fundamental role in shaping contemporary Latin American societies and departmental members were very happy to propose a new SPAN course to cross-list with BLKST, representing this constitutive influence and introducing students to Afro Latin America.

The following course has been approved at the Undergraduate Affairs Group and will soon appear in the undergraduate calendar.

SPAN 317/BLKS 317 The African Diaspora in Latin America (Lec, 0.5)

The African Diaspora is central to understanding the historical development and contemporary expressions of Latin American cultures and identities. Today, the region is home to Afro-descendant populations totalling over 150 million, and their influence is visible in every facet of Latin American societies, including the economy, language, literature and the arts, music, religion, cuisine, and more. Through the study of historical events, cultural production, and current affairs, this course examines African cultural legacies in Latin America, and explains the economic, societal, and political challenges still faced by Afro-Latin Americans today.

3. The Department's commitment to expand its [Minor in Cultural Identities](#) into an Honours program also continues. The Minor was developed in a spirit of collaboration with colleagues in Germanic and Slavic Studies and has been garnering interest. A Statement of Interest has already been shared with the Dean of Arts and the Associate Dean, Undergraduate Studies, and they have received the green light to move forward with consultations. The impetus for expanding the program into a Major area of concentration can be summarized as follows:
 - Cultural identity has emerged as one of the most significant features of human Existence, yet UW doesn't have a BA major program of study devoted to this complex and fascinating topic. Creating a BA in Cultural Identities would address this gap in UW's offerings.
 - While there are a number of courses in the Faculty of Arts that address the issue of cultural identities, there is no focused program that can serve as a central access point for the various courses and departments.
 - Expanding to a major will give the program an increased profile and encourage students who take CI courses to consider making it their major.
 - Cultural Identities is an interdisciplinary program that brings together colleagues from multiple departments eliminating the necessity for additional resources.
 - Spearheaded by departments with expertise in cultural studies, some of which have been undersubscribed in terms of enrolments, will ensure that existing faculty resources are utilized more fully and that more students are able to benefit and learn from academics who bring unique gifts of cultural interpretation and analysis to the table of

scholarly offerings at UW.

- The proposed Major in Cultural Identities complements existing programs through its interdisciplinary approach: departments with courses focused on identity can contribute courses to the program thus bringing new students to their courses and programs.
- The CI major provides a general framework that would support and complement existing programs with more tightly defined foci such as Foreign and Classical Language, Visual Culture, Gender and Social Justice, Indigenous Studies, Canadian Studies, and the new Black Studies Program. The CI program organizers are in the process of reaching out to these other programs to bring them into the planning process at the ground level.

The Department of Spanish and Latin American Studies looks forward to continuing their on-going consultations with our colleagues in French Studies and Classical Studies, and to also invite others to join the conversation and more deeply explore what might become of this proposed Major.


Updated Implementation Plan update table below to reflect timelines etc.


	Recommendations	Proposed Actions	Responsibility for Leading and Resourcing (if applicable) the Actions	Timeline for addressing Recommendations
1.	The return of the Tenure Track position that was lost to retirement in 2017.	Ongoing	Dean of Arts	Unclear but ideally before 2023
2.	The development of the Honours in Cultural Identities	Ongoing consultation with departments and the AUO	Dean of Arts, AUO, Chairs of Spanish, Germanic and Slavic, French and Classical Studies	2-3 Years (2022-2025?)

The Department Chair/Director, in consultation with the Dean of the Faculty shall be responsible for monitoring the Implementation Plan.

Date of next program review: _____ **2026-27**
Date

Signatures of Approval:

 _____ **January 4 2023**
Chair/Director Date

AFIW Administrative Dean/Head (For AFIW programs only) _____ Date
 _____ **5 February 2024**

Faculty Dean _____ Date

Note: AFIW programs fall under the Faculty of ARTS; however, the Dean does not have fiscal control nor authority over staffing and administration of the program.

 _____ **June 10, 2022**

Associate Vice-President, Academic _____ Date
(For undergraduate and augmented programs)

Associate Vice-President, Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs _____ Date
(For graduate and augmented programs)



**Senate Undergraduate Council
Curriculum Subcommittee**

For Approval

Open Session

To: **Senate Undergraduate Council**

Sponsor: David DeVidi, Associate Vice-President, Academic
Contact Information: david.devidi@uwaterloo.ca

Presenter: David DeVidi, Associate Vice-President, Academic
Contact Information: david.devidi@uwaterloo.ca

Date of Meeting: **March 5, 2024**

Agenda Item Identification: **Approval of New Plans, Major Modifications, Plan Inactivations, and Regulation Changes**

Recommendation/Motion:

To recommend Senate approve the following major program modifications and regulation changes, as presented.

Summary:

The SUC Curriculum Subcommittee has reviewed and agreed, via an e-vote which closed on February 27, 2024, to recommend the items included in the appendices of this report to SUC as part of the regular agenda for recommendation to Senate for approval. These items include regulation revisions from the Faculty of Science.

Documents Included:

- Appendix A: Faculty of Science

SCIENCE UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE REPORT
MARCH 2024 SENATE UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL (SUC) – Regular agenda

1 ACADEMIC PLAN CHANGES

1.1 Doctor of Optometry Academic Regulations

1.2 Courses- Course Grades and Credits

1.3 Courses- Online Courses

1. ACADEMIC PLAN CHANGES (Minor)

1.1 Doctor of Optometry Academic Regulations

Motion: To remove reference to course components when addressing methods by which a single failed OPTOM course can be cleared.

Effective Date: September 1, 2024

Background and Rationale: The new curriculum management software (Kuali) will not display the components associated with each course. Since components will not be visible in the Undergraduate Calendar, reference to components, when addressing methods by which a student qualifies to clear a single failed OPTOM course, must be removed ([Doctor of Optometry Academic Regulations](#)). The conditions for access to the supplemental examination is being updated to clarify that this excludes clinical experience courses (coded CLN). This motion was approved in Optometry April 25, 2023.

Calendar text changes:

Clearing a Single Failed Course

Students who have failed one course can choose to retake that course when it is next offered to clear that failure. Under certain conditions outlined below, students can also choose to clear the failed course by
Students can choose to clear a single failed course by one of two methods: 1) retaking a course when it is next offered, or 2) passing a supplemental examination exam, where a grade of CR or 60% or greater is required. A supplemental exam is a comprehensive assessment of the material covered in the course.

Students qualify to write a supplemental examination to clear a failed course exam when they:

- The course is a 100-300 level LEC, LAB, SEM or PRJ OPTOM course (CLN courses excluded);
obtained the failure in an OPTOM 100 to 300 'LEC' or 'LAB,LEC' course;
- The student had a satisfactory or better standing in the term preceding the course failure;
- The student has failed the course for the first time; not previously failed the course and,
- The student has paid pay the supplemental examination administrative fee.

Students who do not qualify to write a supplemental exam must retake the failed course when it is next offered.

Correction to first bullet:

The course is not scheduled as a clinical experience or a 400-level course; (same content crossed out)

1.2 Courses- Course Grades and Credits

Motion: To remove reference to content that states that in some circumstances, non-numeric grades are assigned to a numerically graded course (Course Grades and Credits).

Effective Date: September 1, 2024

Background and Rationale: Assignment of non-numeric grades is not unique to the Faculty of Science. Non-numeric grades, their description, and often additional notes about their use, exists centrally on the Grades page under the University Policies, Guidelines, and Academic Regulations page.

Calendar Text Changes:

1. The Faculty of Science constitutes the examining body for all courses. After the results have been considered they will be posted on Quest. Course attributes, definitions, and grades currently used can be found under Grades.
- ~~2. A non-numeric grade will be assigned to a numerically graded course in some circumstances.~~
3. To obtain credit for a course, students must normally obtain a minimum grade of 50. The minimum grade is higher than 50 in certain courses (e.g., OPTOM and PHARM courses). Some courses have a passing grade of 50 but a higher grade is required to meet the requisites for a subsequent course.
4. Students who do not complete a portion of a course for health or other documented circumstances should consult their course outline, review Faculty information and instructions regarding accommodations, and refer to Assignments, Tests, and Final Exams.

1.3 Courses- Online Courses

Motion: To completely remove the page outlining that online courses can be substitutes for on campus courses ([Online Courses](#))

Effective Date: September 1, 2024

Background and Rationale: The current page suggests that a substitution of online courses for an on-campus course is permitted if the on-campus version is unavailable or there is a time conflict. Since the mode of delivery has no bearing on the way in which a student gains credit to any course, and now that courses are delivered on-campus, online, and even in blended versions which use both delivery modes, this page is obsolete.

Calendar Text Changes:

Online Courses

~~Students may substitute online courses if the on-campus version is not available or scheduling problems make it impossible to enrol in the on-campus version.~~