

**College of Arts & Sciences
Graduate Studies Committee
MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, Dec 7, 2021

1:20-2:10 PM

Attendees: Drew Talley, Amy Besnoy, Shannon Starkey, Halina Duraj, Ray Chambers, Avi Spiegel, Michael Gonzalez, Ron Kaufmann

Welcome & announcements

- This meeting was called to order at 1:25 PM.
- Approval of minutes from November:
 - The November Meeting Minutes were approved by a vote of 8-0-0.

Curriculum changes: EOSC MS Program

- The essence of the changes:
 - At the undergraduate level, EOSC has created a BS option for the Environmental and Ocean Sciences major.
 - One purpose of the proposed changes to the EOSC MS program is to create a **BS/MS combined degree option**, similar to the BA/MS option, which was created several years ago.
 - Students who select the BS option can also transition into the master's program.
 - Even though the curricular requirements are fundamentally the same as the BA/MS program, there still needs to be a separate program code.
 - In addition, a number of new graduate-numbered courses are being added to the MS program and two course numbers are being deactivated.
 - EOSC 530 Human Impacts on the Coastal Environment with Lab NEW
 - EOSC 531 Human Impacts on the Coastal Environment
 - EOSC 532 Marine Community Ecology DEACTIVATE
 - EOSC 536 Marine Community Ecology with Lab NEW
 - EOSC 537 Marine Community Ecology
 - EOSC 574 History of the Earth and Climate with Lab
 - EOSC 574L History of the Earth and Climate Laboratory DEACTIVATE
 - EOSC 575 History of the Earth and Climate NEW
 - EOSC 581 Natural Resources of Death Valley NEW
- Ron explained that no motion is required to approve the changes.
 - The curricular procedure for both undergraduate and graduate bodies in the College is that any proposal that comes from a program is accepted by consensus of all voting members present, unless there are specific items that are nominated for discussion.
- Comments & questions:

- Drew clarified that the classes in question are those where the EOSC Department traditionally allows a graduate student to take upper-division undergraduate classes. Sometimes they already have graduate numbers. In other cases, exceptions need to be made and the “fix” happens after the fact.
- Therefore, these changes allow for a separate graduate listing for the courses, making the class registration and financial aid processes easier.
- Avi asked how they are able to fix the record later.
- Drew said that logistically, he sends an email explaining that the graduate student took this undergraduate course with their consent, but wants it to count as one of their graduate-level courses. Ruey Shivers (Assistant Registrar) then fixes the record.
- Ron noted that there are a bunch of nuances in this process that are challenging to navigate:
 - For example, all undergraduate courses are labeled UG. If a graduate student is enrolled in 6 units of graduate numbered courses and 3 units of undergraduate numbered courses, from a financial aid perspective, it looks like they are only enrolled in 6 units of courses. Accordingly, there must be a manual intervention for each course, so that the financial aid award accurately reflects their course load and student status.
 - To get around this issue, Ron notes that they will make a graduate number for the same course, so that undergraduates can enroll in the undergraduate version, graduate students in the graduate version, etc.
- Ron and Drew offered to have more in-depth conversations with Avi about the logistical processes next semester.
- There were no objections to the proposed revisions to the EOSC MS program and the proposed new graduate course numbers. **All of these actions were approved by a vote of 8-0-0.**