

Educational Policies Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 7, 2022

Status of Minutes: Approved February 1, 2023

Attendees

Members Present: L. Becker, J. DeBonis, S. Garrett, K. Grote, L. Marcal, Y. Mimura,
T. Montañó, K. Taylor, D. Weingarten, T. Zirakian

Members Absent: J. Anderson

Staff: D. Cours, R. Guerra, K. Harris, J. Hunter

Guests: K. Baxter, K. Dabbour, L. Domine, R. Espinoza, S. Fields, C. Hayashi,
X. Jia, P. Lazarony, T. Luchko, D. Wakefield, B. Wu

I. Announcements

- A. D. Weingarten asked committee members to review the materials provided by the B5 subcommittee for discussion at the next EPC meeting.
- B. J. Hunter announced that tomorrow is the deadline for colleges to submit curriculum proposals for Spring 2023 review.

II. Business

- A. The minutes from 11/16/2022 were **MSP approved**.
- B. Program Review Update
 - 1. J. DeBonis reported on the Jewish Studies final MOU exit meeting. The program received six commendations and five recommendations. Highlights of the commendations included faculty leadership in the field of Jewish Studies, which serves as a model for other CSUs; adaptation of course content and structure in response to needs of students related to workforce and civic engagement; an internship course that prioritizes a sense of belonging; and raising external funding to support curricular expansion. Recommendations related to curriculum included continuing to pursue double major partnerships with other departments (including in other colleges); and curricular revisions that help students discover the major and minor as early as possible in their time at CSUN, including development of new GE courses taken by first-year students, especially in the "Golden Four" and cultural competency areas. The program will also explore opportunities to expand internship and service learning programs, in consultation with the Career Center, the Office of Community Engagement and other relevant departments. Jewish Studies will continue to participate in the college strategic plan to increase visibility in K-12 and community colleges.

C. College of Science and Mathematics

Physics

(Returning from 10/19/22)

Program Modifications

1. Physics, B.A. The program modification to replace CHEM 101/L with COMP 110/L or COMP 111A/L and COMP 111B/L, and the pattern modification to count COMP 111B/L in E Lifelong Learning were **tabled** for further information. Clarify how COMP 111B/L meets the GE Section E SLOs, update the record of consultation for Chemistry and Computer Science, attach a more detailed syllabus for COMP 111B/L, and provide the number of students in the B.A. program to justify the need for the pattern modification. The revised proposals will be considered at the February 1 meeting for early implementation.
2. Physics, B.A. The pattern modification to count PHYS 225 in B1 Physical Science was **MSP approved**.
3. Physics, B.S. – Physics Option. The program modification to replace CHEM 101/L with COMP 110/L or COMP 111A/L and COMP 111B/L, and the pattern modification to count COMP 111B/L in E Lifelong Learning were **tabled** for further information. Clarify how COMP 111B/L meets the GE Section E SLOs, update the record of consultation for Chemistry and Computer Science, and attach a more detailed syllabus for COMP 111B/L. The revised proposals will be considered at the February 1 meeting for early implementation.
4. Physics, B.S. – Physics Option The pattern modification to count PHYS 225 in B1 Physical Science was **MSP approved**.
5. Physics, B.S. – Astrophysics Option. The program modification to replace CHEM 101/L with COMP 110/L or COMP 111A/L and COMP 111B/L, and the pattern modification to count COMP 111B/L in E Lifelong Learning were **tabled** for further information. Clarify how COMP 111B/L meets the GE Section E SLOs, update the record of consultation for Chemistry and Computer Science, and attach a more detailed syllabus for COMP 111B/L. The revised proposals will be considered at the February 1 meeting for early implementation.
6. Physics, B.S. – Astrophysics Option. The pattern modification to count PHYS 225 in B1 Physical Science was **MSP approved**.

Course Modification

7. PHYS 365 – Experimental Physics I (2). **MSP approved**. The department will consider whether to update the wording for Recommended Corequisite.

D. D. Cours said that the draft revisions to the Majors and Minors policy were slightly updated from the version E. Adams circulated last semester. The goal is to clarify the double major policy for students, as well as Undergraduate Studies for change of major appeals and Undergraduate Degree Services for processing degrees. She reviewed other CSU campus double major policies, which vary from having no

restrictions to requiring unique coursework in each major. CSUN issues two diplomas to students who complete two degrees, but not all campuses do. Double options appear on the same diploma. She shared a concern with using the term “substantive” in the proposed revisions and asked if the policy could delimitate the minimum number of distinct units for double majors.

D. Cours asked the committee to provide feedback on the draft revisions. D. Weingarten inquired if there was harm in allowing students to complete two majors with similar coursework. Some of the raised concerns included integrity of the degree and employers relying on the diploma as a representation of the student’s work. Several members were hesitant to assign a minimum number of distinct units without an in-depth discussion and data on double majors awarded to have a better understanding and measurement of what the campus considers a double major. Members also asked about the prevalence of the issue across CSUN and whether it was a problem.

Confusion also surrounded the term “major” and whether it meant degrees or options. The policy for double options versus degrees could be handled differently. It was suggested that rather than assigning an arbitrary number, departments could define double major exclusions, otherwise it should be allowed. Another recommendation proposed a compromise policy with a baseline number of distinct units, but departments could petition for a smaller number with justification. It was also raised that there is value to double majors and options. A suggestion was made to explore the reasons why students want a double major, conduct more assessment and hear from students. Further discussion will be agendaized next semester.

E. Grades for courses with corequisite labs/discussions was postponed due to lack of time.

F. D. Weingarten said no substantive AB 928 update was available at this time.

G. The continuing discussion on General Education was postponed due to lack of time.

Meeting adjourned at 3:57 p.m.