

Undergraduate Committee

Friday, September 8, 2017

11:00 AM - 1:00 pm

LeFrak 1158

Minutes

Present: Tatiana Loboda (Chair), Giovanni Baiocchi, Klaus Hubacek, George Hurtt, Petr Potapov, Christina Prell, Ron Luna (ex-officio), Amanda Hall

1. Continuing Committee Business:

a. ENSP program – quick overview and approval (Ron Luna)

The committee reviewed the proposed changes to the overall structure of the 3 ENSP majors that are administered within the DoGS. The major change that involves standardizing the base-level requirements across all three ENSP majors was approved previously at the Departmental Retreat in April 2017. The committee discussed the elective courses that would fit best within the scope of each ENSP major. The proposed modifications for ENSP course offering and requirements are submitted for review to the ENSP program director. The committee expects to receive the final feedback and approve the program structure at the next committee meeting.

Amanda Hall will conduct an informal survey with current ENSP majors with the Department to get a better understanding why students select specific concentrations and what appeals to them within those concentrations. Results are to be reported at the next committee meeting.

b. Assessment report (Ron Luna)

Undergraduate Director presented the draft report on the Learning outcome assessment for the 2016-2017 year. The committee reviewed the methodology and the results of the assessment as well as the proposed modifications to the assessment methods and implementation for the 2017-2018 year. The committee recommended minor changes to the overall assessment ranges and approved the assessment report (changes pending). The committee approved to move the data collection stage of the assessment to the Fall 2017 semester to make sure that sufficient amount of time is available for data analysis and report generation. Following the new timeline, the report will be developed during the Spring 2018 semester and will be reviewed and approved by the UG committee and subsequently Departmental Committee by the end of the Spring semester. The committee also has recommended to increase the number of assessors considering a substantial grading bias exhibited by the two assessors

involved in 2016-2017 learning outcomes assessment. The committee further recommended to involve individuals who are familiar with the undergraduate student body and have served as TAs for any classes within the Department (a range of skills representing human, physical, and technical fields is a must)

2. New business for 2017-2018 year:

- a. Improving the quality of undergraduate student body

The committee will monitor the success of the previously instituted changes in the requirements for all DoGS undergraduate majors. Since the requirements aimed at retaining students of higher academic achievement were instituted only at the end of Spring 2017 semester, their success cannot be yet measured. The committee will consider other potential avenues for improving the quality of students in DoGS undergraduate majors at subsequent meetings.

At future meetings the UG committee will also consider the following issues as time allows:

- b. Improving the inclusion of our undergraduates into the Departmental life.
- c. Review of the undergraduate program as it compares to other peer Geography Departments in the U.S.