

DEDMAN COLLEGE
UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL
Minutes of October 23, 2008

The Undergraduate Council met Thursday, October 23, 2008, at 2 p.m. in 121 Dallas Hall. Present: Deans Cal Jillson, Jennifer Haden, and Robb Pocklington; Professors Eric Barnes, Alan Brown, Victoria Lockwood, John Mears, David Son, and Roberto Vega; and student members, Derek Hubbard, and Ryan Pitts.

The meeting was brought to order by Dean Cal Jillson.
Minutes from the September 25, 2008 meeting were approved as written.

Thomas Coan, Associate Professor of Physics, joined the meeting to answer questions about the curriculum proposal for the **Physics B.S. degree**.

- The proposal addresses the development of the field and bolsters the quality of the Physics B.S. degree by using the computer as a significant tool in the program.
- In addition to PHYS 3340, the B.S. student will also be required to learn a computing language. Additionally, a STAT course will be allowed to count toward a math elective requirement.

The Council voted to **approve** the proposal as written effective AY 2009-10.

Stephen Wegren, Director of International Studies Program, joined the meeting to answer questions about the curriculum proposal for the **International Studies B.A. degree**. International Studies currently averages over 100 majors and almost 70 minors. It is an interdisciplinary program relying on the participation of many departments for its success. The proposal includes the addition of several existing courses as well as the relocation of a course within the program as outlined below:

- The proposal moves PLSC 3389 to 'International Economics' to supplement ECON 3321 to help students meet this requirement. ***This change will be retroactive to fall 2008.***
- During an annual assessment of the International Studies program, a series of existing courses are revealed that are proposed additions to the program in order to add flexibility to the major.

The Council voted to **approve** the proposal as written. Other than PLSC 3389, the changes are effective AY 2009-10.

Dean Jillson gave a brief explanation of the economics curriculum proposal explaining that the department would like to add both math and statistics prerequisites to their 4000 level economics courses. See the attached statement by Professor Saggi describing the intent behind these changes and the steps to be taken to insure that adverse effects on other departments are minimized. Kamal Saggi, Chair of the Department of Economics, and Dan Millimet, Associate Professor of Economics, joined the meeting to answer questions about the curriculum proposal for the **Economics B.S. and B.A. degree**.

- Students lack the tools they need to understand the data they are working with in the upper level ECON courses. An understanding of calculus and statistics would allow the professor to teach at a higher level.

- The students will usually take these courses anyway; they just don't take them at the right time. This change will encourage students to take the necessary courses in the right order allowing them to have the tools needed to succeed when they enter the higher level economics courses.
- Every effort will be made by the Economics Department to meet the needs of other majors using these economics courses to meet their degree requirements.

The Council voted to **approve** the proposal pending the receipt of a written summary of the proposed changes by the department (attached). The proposed changes are effective AY 2009-10.

Meeting was dismissed.

Announcements:

The following course proposals, modifications, inactivations, and reactivations were approved administratively:

New Course Proposal: **ECO 4390**: *Independent Study in Economics*

New Course Proposal: **ECO 4396**: *Business and Economic Forecasting Internship*

New Course Proposal: **ECO 4397**: *Law and Economics Internship*

New Course Proposal: **ECO 4397**: *Law and Economics Internship*

New Course Proposal: **ECO 4398**: *Department Distinction in Economics*

These Geology courses were added and/or modified in order that Access matches the catalog.

ANTH 3348 GEOL 3454

FL 3394 GEOL 5366

GERM 4360 PHIL 3364

LATN 3323 PHYS 1303

GEOL 3330

INACTIVATED COURSES:

REACTIVATED COURSES:

The next meeting of the Undergraduate Council will be Thursday, November 20th at 2pm, in the Hyer Room (121 Dallas Hall).

Respectfully submitted,

Roberto Vega

Enc.