

Sustainability Committee
1 December 2014 Meeting Minutes
11:30 am – 1:00 pm • EPC 304C

Attended: Cindy Norton, Kevin Gilford, Dena Samuels, Rebecca Webb, Kimberly Reeves, Steve Jennings, Margaret Scott, Margaret Harris, Joel Tonyan, David Havlick (chair), Janel Owens, Sudhanshu Semwal, Pam Sawyer, Daphne Greenwood, Linda Kogan

1. Members reported back from individual research on existing Sustainability minors and Introduction to Sustainability courses that might usefully inform our own ongoing efforts to revise the Sustainable Development minor and create a new introductory course.
 - A number of examples were presented, including programs from UVA, Auburn, NAU, Art Institute, Univ of Michigan, Univ Missouri-KC, UNC-Chapel Hill, URI, and more.
 - Discussion focused on which elements of these programs we viewed most favorably and could be incorporated into the UCCS SUDV minor. The discussion resulted in the following:
 - Unanimous view that an Introductory course will be important to develop and add to the minor in order to provide an early unifying experience.
 - A majority view that we should not overly constrain the selection of courses offered in the minor, and that with a newly structured sequence of Introductory course-electives-Capstone course students in the minor would benefit from sufficient unity without overly sacrificing flexibility. This structure would also accommodate a range of student interests and majors.
 - Also, a majority view that maintaining some form of the “three pillars of sustainable development” (social equity, environmental protection, economic development) was preferable, both for its own sake and for communicating with the new Compass Curriculum requirements for sustainability.
 - There was considerable discussion about whether the economics pillar is overly constraining in terms of course offerings, or if there are alternative ways of providing economic perspectives effectively for students. Several members spoke strongly in favor of keeping the economics component unchanged (i.e. present) in the minor requirements.
 - The “bottleneck” of the econ component could also potentially be alleviated if more courses are offered for UG credit in the COB, or if the minor only requires students to complete courses in 2 of the 3 pillars (not ideal in the view of several members).
 - Partially in response to the economics-related discussion, a proposal was tendered and received general support to create a seminar series as a second new course for the minor (in addition to the Intro course). The seminar series could be team taught by members of the committee (and others with relevant interests and expertise) and provide an array of perspectives relating to sustainability (i.e. three pillars and beyond).

- Questions remain about how to support this course (and the Intro course), both in terms of instruction and FTEs, but a range of existing models were mentioned including the BI, GPS courses, and HUM.
 - A number of examples were presented for individual courses, including Sustainability courses offered by UNM, Michigan, Agnes Scott College, UC-Denver, ASU, Winthrop University, Univ of Washington, and Lambton College
2. We resolved to meet for a 4-hour retreat from 9-1 on Dec. 15 to try to finalize as much as possible the details for the minor and the courses required as part of it.
 - Retreat details: Monday, Dec. 15, 9 am – 1pm, in the DPS Training Room.
 3. The committee briefly discussed materials provided by the Academics sub-group of the Chancellor's Climate Advisory Board. Recommendations were made and generally supported to add the Intro to Sustainability course and seminar series to the recommendations/requests included in this document. These requests should also include high-medium-low summary and itemized budgets.

1:05 pm Adjourned