

UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date: November 5, 2025

Present: Richard Warner
Stephen Eliason
Dan Charlton
Nicole Bogunovich
Jaki Penninger (Registrar representative)

Carl Castles
Scott Butterfield
Tam McDowell

Absent: Ying Wang
Braden Stone (student)*
**excused*

Elaine Westbrook*

Guests: Jason Comer
Kathleen Thatcher

Sam Boerboom



The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. in the Chancellor's Conference Room, with some members attending virtually.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of October 29 were accepted as presented.

II. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

Group 1		
PSYX 458: Drugs and Behavior	Edited	10/23/2025
PSYX 459: Drugs and Behavior Lab	Edited	10/23/2025

The Department has asked that these items be postponed to the next meeting.

Group 2		
COMX 401: Communication Law and Ethics	Edited	10/24/2025
COMT 501: Communication Law and Ethics	Edited	10/24/2025

- Motion by Scott Butterfield, seconded by Steve Eliason to **approve Group 2.**

Sam Boerboom, Chair of Communication, noted that these are Sue Balter-Reitz's courses. As per the Senate policy, these courses have the same title and number of credits, both courses have a notation in the course description that they may be co-convened, and the graduate learning outcomes are different from the undergraduate. The Committee reviewed the syllabi for both courses.

- Motion carried.

It was agreed Group 2 will go to the Senate as action items.

Group 3		
COMT 565: Communication Theory	Edited	10/24/2025
COMX 400: Communication Theory	Edited	10/24/2025

- Motion by Steve Eliason, seconded by Nicole Bogunovich to **approve Group 3.**

Dr. Boerboom noted that Sue Balter-Reitz was an early adopter of the co-convening guidelines, so her courses have been a good example for the Department.

- Motion carried.

It was agreed Group 3 will go to the Senate as action items.

Group 4		
BIOB 420: Evolution	Added	10/24/2025
BIOB 487: Bioinformatics	Edited	10/24/2025
BIOO 412: Animal Physiology	Edited	10/24/2025
Biology Bachelor of Science Degree	Edited	10/24/2025

- Motion by Steve Eliason, seconded by Richard Warner to **approve Group 4.**

Carl Castles, Chair of Biological & Physical Sciences, noted that this is a major redesign of the Biology BS. The Department is placing the Biology BA on moratorium, so they have built flexibility into the BS. They have reduced the credits of the biology core and the additional chemistry requirements have been removed. The changes include adding an evolution course (taught everywhere in the MUS except MSUB), reactivating the Animal Physiology course, and creation of three concentrations as well as a general biology track. One concentration is a pre-veterinary medicine, which is likely to grow as RVU opens their veterinary school. RVU has already expressed interest in working with MSUB and the Department has already had an increase in students for pre-veterinary biology.

Kathleen Thatcher, Assessment & Accreditation, noted that the learning outcomes should probably reflect the concentrations: 2-3 outcomes about the biology core and then 1 outcome for each of the concentrations. Dr. Castles stated he would work with Ms. Thatcher to update the outcomes.

Dr. Castles also noted that they will hire an organismal biologist in the coming year, who will likely add additional courses to this program.

- Motion carried.

It was agreed Group 3 will go to the Senate as action items.

The meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

rjrm