

Academic Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 8, 2011
Edwards 164 – 10 a.m.

Attendees:

Jim Solazzo, Chair, Science	Brent Lewis, Science
Ken Small, Business	Jennifer Boyle, Humanities
Min Ye, Humanities	Renarta Tompkins, Education
Cathy Goodwin, Kimbel Library	Cathy Jones for Nancy Ratcliff, Education

Absent:

Barbara Buckner, Provost Office	Michael Collins, Vice- Chair, Business
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Guests:

Yoav Wachsmann, Business

A. Call to Order

1. Approval of meeting minutes for December 7, 2010 meeting.
* Cathy Goodwin noted that she was left off the list of attendees. Minutes have been corrected.
2. Approval of meeting minutes for January 11, 2011 meeting.
* Minutes were approved as written.

B. Chair Report – None

C. Vice-Chair Report – None

D. New Business

1. Form D – New Programs

a. Environmental Studies Minor

Proposed catalog description: The Environmental Studies Minor utilizes a multidisciplinary approach to help students develop their understanding of important environmental issues and potential solutions to these challenges. Students will develop a basic scientific understanding of how ecosystems function and how people interact with the natural environment. Students will also examine environmental issues from a variety of perspectives by taking courses about the natural environment in a variety of disciplines such as Economics, Philosophy, Politics & Geography, Recreation and Sports Management, and Sociology. **Justification:** Public awareness about environmental issues such as pollution and global warming is growing. For instance, President Obama recently announced his plans to significantly raise the use of renewable energy in the United States. Consequently, education programs about the environment are rising in popularity. Many students at Coastal Carolina University are interested in studying about the environment, but are not necessarily interested in taking

many science classes, which they would have to take if they opted to complete an Environmental Science Minor. The Environmental Science Minor is designed for science majors and requires a total of 49-50 credits, which makes it extremely difficult to take it in conjunction with a non-science major. Many non-science majors may wish to complete an Environmental Studies Minor in order to improve their credentials. For example, a business major may wish to complete an Environmental Studies Minor in order to work for an eco-friendly company.

In a recent survey (n = 51) conducted in FYE classes, 29.4% of participants noted that there would either definitely (11.8%) or probably (17.6%) take a multidisciplinary environmental studies minor if it was offered at Coastal Carolina University. This minor will complement other initiatives at Coastal Carolina University such as our sustainability initiative and could provide an educational background for student eco-representatives. Moreover, since all of the courses that are proposed as part of the minor are already offered at Coastal Carolina University, there is no need for additional funds in order to start this minor.

Environmental Studies Minor (Tentative Curriculum)

Required Foundation Courses (not counted as part of the minor):

1) BIOL 121/121L: Introduction to Biology (Core Objective 3)	4 Credits
OR CHEM 111/111L: Introduction to Chemistry (Core Objective 3)	4 Credits
2) POLI 101: Introduction to World Politics (Core Objective 5-B)	3 Credits
Total Credits	7 Credits

Other Recommended Courses

1) ECON 101: Survey of Economics	3 Credits
OR ECON 201 (Macroeconomics) & ECON 202 (Microeconomics)	6 Credits
2) SOC 101: Introduction to Sociology (Core Objective 7)	3 Credits
3) CHEM 112/112L: General Chemistry	3 Credits
4) POLI 201: American National Government (Core Objective 6)	3 Credits

Required Course

Science Foundation

ENVI 201/201L: Introduction to Environmental Science ⁺	4 credits
Total Required Credits	4 credits

Multidisciplinary Perspectives (At Least 14 Additional Credit Hours)

1) ECON 320: Environmental & Natural Resource Economics <i>(Prerequisite: ECON 101 or ECON 201 or Instructor's Permission)</i>	3 Credits
2) ECON 333: Economics of Energy <i>(Prerequisite: ECON 101 or ECON 201)</i>	3 Credits
3) SOC 480: Environmental Sociology <i>(Prerequisite: SOC 101)</i>	3 Credits
POLI 420: Global Environmental Politics <i>(Prerequisite: POLI 101 or Instructor's permission)</i>	3 Credits
4) POLI 453: Regulatory Politics <i>(Prerequisite: POLI 201 or Instructor's permission)</i>	3 Credits
5) PHIL 319: Environmental Ethics (Prerequisites: None)	3 Credits
6) HPRO 333: Environmental Health <i>Prerequisite: HPRO 121</i>	3 Credits
7) RSM 379: Ecotourism (Prerequisites: None)	3 Credits
8) ENVI 399: Independent Study/Internship ⁺ <i>(Prerequisite: Approval of Instructor and Department Chair)</i>	1-4 Credits

9) Other courses will be added in the future such as ENVI 202: Methods in Sustainability based on demand and availability of resources.

10) Other courses as approved by the Environmental Studies Minor Coordinator^

Total Credits (outside the university core):

At least 18 credits*

+ Pre-requisite will be changed so students with CHEM 111 could take the course. ENVI 201/201L may be replaced by a less rigorous class in the future if there is sufficient demand

* Students must complete a total of at least 18 credits outside the university core. Students can complete the minor by taking ECON 320, POLI 420, PHIL 319, RSM 379 and ENVI 399 with no additional prerequisites.

Committee action: This proposal was approved as written and will be submitted to Faculty Senate for the March, 2011, meeting.