Summary of Decisions – Undergraduate Programs – APRIL 2020

Undergraduate program and course issues are addressed throughout the academic year as needed. Our primary assessment exercise occurs during a one-day faculty in-service Planning and Assessment workshop. The workshop scheduled for 22 April 2020 was cancelled because of novel coronavirus restrictions and replaced with an abbreviated remote meeting.

Information used to support assessment and planning:

- Instructor reporting on student performance in classes used to evaluate progress on the Learning Objectives for WATS majors.
- IDEA surveys for individual courses and department summary
- Review of enrollment, graduation, and placement for WATS majors: 2005-2020
- Degree requirements and 4-yr plan for revised major: Mgt. and Restoration of Aquatic Ecosystems
- Revised degree requirements and 4-yr plan for major in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences
- Only one graduating senior surveys was received and was not used

Principal Decisions

1. Remote instruction

Considerable discussion focused on preparation for Fall 2020 instruction. Specific planning awaits determination of whether the campus will be open. Faculty discussed alternative delivery methods, including hybrid (rotating cohorts between face-to-face and web broadcast) and blended (part online, part face-to-face or broadcast) modes.

Fall 2020 course delivery will be developed iteratively over the summer. Faculty teaching Fall 2020 classes will need to be responsive in determining delivery methods such that the university can determine classroom needs.

2. Courses

WATS 5300 Principles of Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration: It was decided that WATS 5300 would be offered in the fall in a time slot shared with WATS 5340 Capstone. This resolves scheduling challenges. Based on a lack of understanding of restoration principle and practice reported by students and observed by instructors, this class also assures that all students have adequate facility with the scientific and social principles of environmental restoration.

WATS 4510 Aquatic Practicum will be split into two classes and expanded in content. There will now be two classes WATS 4510 Aquatic Ecology Practicum I: Lab Methods (2 Cr and taught by Brahney) and WATS 4520 Aquatic Ecology Practicum II: Analysis (2 Cr and taught by Brothers).
3. Program Change

WATS 5300 *Principles of Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration* will now be required for FAAS majors. Thus, it is required for all WATS majors and serves as a prerequisite for WATS 5340 / WATS 5350 Capstone.

Following a report from Janice Brahney and Peter Wilcock, the faculty agreed to reinstate Chemistry 1220 *Principles of Chemistry II* and Chemistry 1225 *Chemistry II Laboratory* as required Science Foundation classes for both MRAE and FAAS majors. The structure of the chemistry sequence as taught distributes essential concepts and techniques across both Chemistry courses.

Submitted by

Peter R. Wilcock
Professor and Department Head