

MARCH 4, 2025

Date approved: 04/01/2025

Present: Tammy Randolph, Rhonda Weller-Stilson, Eric Bain-Selbo, Paul Sharpe, Joe Pujol, Sandy Hinkle, Raju Vanteddu (Proxy Kevin Dickson), Sarah Shaner, Hayley Love, Doug Koch, Christopher Baldwin, Mel Odegard

Absent: Quantella Noto, Chris Haug, Shawn Guiling, Karlee Ensor (SGA Representative)

Guests: Tim Judd, Tonya Wells, Tom Blattel

I. [MINUTES:](#)

Motion by Weller-Stilson, second by Randolph, to approve the distributed minutes from February 4, 2025, University Academic Council Meeting. Motion was approved unanimously.

II. Action Items:

- New Programs: none
- Addition of Minor: none
- Other (Revisions and Deletions):
 - College of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
 - Biology
 - a. Program Change: [BSEd in Biology Education](#)
 - Course changes

Motion by Randolph, second by Pujol, to consider and approve the revision of the BSEd in Biology Education. Tim Judd described the justification for the revision. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. Tabled Items:

- College of Humanities and Social Sciences
 - Criminal Justice, Social Work, and Sociology
 - Program Change: [BS in Criminal Justice](#)
 - a. Course changes
 - b. Reduce degree from 120 credit hours to 90 credit hours

IV. Information Items:

- College of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
 - Biology
 - Revised Program: [BS in Biology](#)
 - a. Minimal course changes

The BS in Biology will return as an Action item to capture the change in Option Title, and the course changes separately without the title change as an information item.

- Revised Program: [Certificate in Histotechnician](#)
 - a. Minimal course changes
- [Proposed New Courses, Significant Course Revisions and Course Terminations](#): (proposed courses are currently submitted for 10-day review, will be submitted for 10-day review as of program approval, or were reviewed since the last Academic Council)
 - College of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
 - Biology
 - a. BI262 Field Techniques in Biology – Course deletion
 - b. BI298 Biol Research I – Course deletion
 - c. BI384 Readings in Biology – Course deletion
 - d. BI453 Occupational Health – Course deletion
 - e. BI455 Industrial Hygiene – Course deletion
 - f. BO198 Botany Elective – Course deletion
 - g. BO398 Botany Elective – Course deletion
 - h. BT406 Genomics – Course deletion
 - i. BT408 Biological Microscopy – Course deletion
 - j. BT450 Inv Mol Biol/Biotech – Course deletion
 - k. BT458 Analytical Bioinformatics – Course deletion
 - l. BY299 Introduction to Biological Research – Title change
 - m. ZO198 Zoology Elective – Course deletion
 - n. ZO398 Zoology Elective – Course deletion

V. Discussion Items

- Feedback from departments and colleges on reduced credit hour degrees
 - Proposed language for a policy change
 - Small working group will get together and develop language for a pilot program to present at the next meeting
 - a. Eric, Sandy, Hayley
 - Suggestion of a second small working group to work on the Pros and Cons of reduced credit hours
 - a. Is BAS and BS equally acceptable for Graduate study?
 - b. Investigate best strategies and best practices instead of pros and cons. Obstacles and roadblocks?
 - c. Instead of a working group, all members will reach out to colleges and departments to identify the best strategies and best practices. What are we not thinking about?
 - Doug will share a few bullets to get the conversation going
 - Departments and programs with accelerated programs: What issues arise there?
 - Can you do a reduced credit hour program and also an accelerated program?
- Identifying additional potential programs for reduced credit hour degrees for coordinated launch
- Conversation about competition from community colleges
- Concern about transfer students expecting to complete a reduced credit degree in 1 year, but then required courses are offered sequentially over 4 semesters, or the rotation is not frequent enough.

- Transfers must meet all upper-level requirements and 30 hours at SEMO
- International body evaluates if programs are equivalent to a US 4-year degree
- Legislation coming to require 3-year degrees in Indiana
- Program outcomes vs. seat time as a measure of completion
- Midterms and first 8-week final grading opening
 - Due next Monday
- Restaurant Hop coming up and Symphony concert tonight
- History Day is this Friday
- Tom Blattel has joined the Office of the Provost

Hinkle moved to adjourn. Randolph seconded. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned.