

MEETING MINUTES
HSAC FACULTY COMMITTEE
570 WEIL HALL
4/30/13
10:30 am – 11:30 am

Attendees:

Jim Jawitz
Wes Henson
Chris Martinez
Lou Motz
Treavor Boyer
Mary Garvin

INTRODUCTION:

This meeting is being held for Spring 2013 semester. Regular meetings are held to maintain continuity and active participation.

Jim Jawitz recognized and thanked Wes Henson for his enthusiastic participation as the HSAC Student Representative during the academic 2012/2013 year.

A brief review of participation numbers: 33 currently active students; 8 new student applications since 9/17/12 meeting; 3 new faculty applications since 9/17/12 meeting; 3 students graduated Fall 2012; 1 pending student application where petition is required.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Review of 9/17/12 meeting minutes:

Discussion was held on #7 of 9/17/12 minutes – *Students and faculty meet regularly to build a sense of community and engage faculty/student interaction.* Wes Henson reported that there have been 2 formal and 2 informal activities for HSAC faculty and students since the meeting.

Discussion was held on #6 of 9/17/12 minutes – *HSAC information could be added to syllabus of HSAC-approved courses to promote more student participation.* Jim Jawitz suggested that the best time for this might be leading into a Fall semester. In-coming Chair Chris Martinez will communicate with faculty prior to Fall 2013 semester.

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES AS PRESENTED:

Lou Motz

2ND

Chris Martinez

VOTE:

Unanimously approved

2. Suggested revision to student application process language on web site:

Wes Henson suggested a modification to the application process language on the website to encourage earlier student participation in HSAC activities. Suggested modification language:

<http://hydrology.ufl.edu/curriculum/index.asp> (4):

“Submit on-line application as soon as possible in your academic program. HSAC members enjoy student-faculty interactions, socials, and hydrologic sciences seminars.

Applications must be received at least one semester before the semester of the expected graduation. Click the Students “Click Here to Apply!” button on the Home Page.”

Discussion was led by Jim Jawitz on perceived barriers to students applying to the Cluster and avenues available to remove the barriers. Identified barriers included that 1) some departments won't add the Hydrologic Sciences Concentration designation to GIMS records until all course requirements have been met so students think they shouldn't apply until they have taken all of the courses; and 2) whether students see the beneficial connection between the required 6 topics.

Avenues to remove barrier:

- a. Changing the wording on the application instructions will inform students that they can apply to HSAC early in their academic career which will enable them to participate in activities while completing their course work.
- b. Modify letter sent each semester informing students about their designation in the GIMS system and which Topic area courses they have met. This modification will include that, if their department requires course work completion prior to adding the designation, they should be sure to have the Hydrologic Sciences Concentration designation added to their GIMS record, prior to graduation, once they have completed all of the course work.
- c. Home page of <http://hydrology.ufl.edu> could be modified to be more of a recruiting document that will encourage early student participation in program activities. This could also include wording to make the beneficial connection between the required topic areas more visible.

MOTION TO APPROVE NEW WORDING AS SUGGESTED: Chris Martinez

2ND

Jim Jawitz

VOTE:

Unanimously approved

3. Suggested revision to topical requirements for PhD students:

Wes Henson suggested that topical requirements for PhD students be modified as follows to alleviate a perceived barrier to student participation in HSAC:

“complete 1 course from at least 5 different HSAC topics and one course from an HSAC topic of your choice” instead of the current requirement of 1 course from each of the 6 topic areas. The total of 6 courses and 18 credits would still be required.

Discussion was led by Jim Jawitz. This is a big change that needs a more comprehensive review than could be done at this meeting and should involve input from a larger faculty base. Items of discussion were: 1) should the main focus remain on “hydrology” or should it be expanded to be more “water”-based; 2) the 6 core topic areas and why they were settled on originally; 3) whether or not a vast untapped potential of new students exists that would warrant changing the requirements; 4) adding another concentration not so focused on “hydrology”; 5) whether or not students see the beneficial connection between the 6 core topic areas; and 6) why the Hydrologic Sciences Academic Cluster was established.

This agenda item was TABLED until the Fall 2013 meeting. Chris Martinez, Chair-Elect, will solicit input from HSAC-affiliated faculty and resume the discussion then.

4. Suggested course addition for Topic 6: CPO6796 Water Politics:
Wendy Graham suggested that this course should be added to the approved curriculum as a Topic 6 Hydrologic Policy and Management selection. This course is taught by Katrina Schwartz and was previously approved for the HSAC curriculum as LAW6930 Wetlands and Watersheds: Science, Law and Policy. Discussion was led by Jim Jawitz. Course additions to the approved curriculum should be requested via the teaching faculty sending course information and syllabus to HSAC Chair which would then be voted on by the HSAC Faculty Committee. Chris Martinez will contact Katrina Schwartz to solicit this information from her. If anyone knows of a course they think they should be included in the HSAC curriculum they can contact them to prompt them to submit the course for inclusion.
5. Discussion on affiliation requirements for student committee chair/members:
A situation came up where a student, whose application was approved with an HSAC-affiliated advisor, had a change of advisor to a non-HSAC-affiliated advisor. Two of his committee members were HSAC-affiliated. The student had met all of the course work requirements. The student was graduating soon and petitioned to be allowed to remain an HSAC participant without an HSAC-affiliated advisor. Petition was approved. It was decided that since this is a rare situation, that no changes to current requirements would be made – each incidence will be handled on an individual basis.
6. Discussion on who is responsible party to ensure necessary changes to GIMS record:
Advisor is ultimately responsible for students meeting HSAC requirements.
7. Discussion on some departments requiring students to complete HSAC coursework prior to designation being added to GIMS record:
See number 2 above.
8. Discussion of review of by-laws (allow Chair approval of applications that meet established criteria, other changes as necessary):
This is a carry-over item from the 9/17/12 meeting. Since there is going to be a comprehensive review of the program which will more than likely result in changes to the approved by-laws, it was decided to table this item until that time.
9. Election of Chair-Elect for upcoming Fall Term:
This item was tabled until the 9/17/12 meeting to review the Rotation Schedule prior to the nomination and election of Chair-Elect.
10. Approval of eligible currently-pending student applications:
There are no eligible currently-pending student applications.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Mary Garvin will modify the website to include the new application instructions presented in agenda item 2. – COMPLETED: 4/30/12.

2. Mary Garvin will modify the notification letters sent to students each semester to include the wording changes in agenda item 2 b.
3. Chris Martinez will coordinate suggested revisions to the website home page to make it a more recruitment-oriented document.
4. Chris Martinez will contact Katrina Schwartz about submitting course information for CPO6796 Water Politics to be included in approved HSAC curriculum.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:35 PM.