

Undergraduate Committee Meeting

Agenda

AY 2023-2024

9:00 am – 11:00 am



AGENDA – October 20, 2023

1) Chairs Call to Order @ 9:01am

2) Roll Call

College	Member	Term Date	
Business and Entrepreneurship	Jennifer Welbourne	8/31/2025	Present
Education and P-16 Integration	Miryam Espinoza-Dulanto	8/31/2026	Present
Engineering and Computer Science	VACANT	VACANT	Vacant
Fine Arts	Robert Gilbert	8/31/2024	Present
Health Professions	Fidencio Mercado	8/31/2024	Present
Liberal Arts	Marcela Hebbard	8/31/2025	Present
School of Nursing	Dalia Paul	8/31/2025	Absent
School of Social Work	Noelia Alonzo	8/31/2025	Absent
Sciences	Tatiana Altecór	8/31/2025	Present
University College	Marilyn Hagerty	8/31/2024	Present
University Library	Justin White	8/31/2024	Absent
Ex-Officio	Laura M. Saenz	Term does not end	Present

3) Undergraduate College Welcome – Dr. Laura Saenz

4) Nomination and Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Dr. Saenz asked the committee for self-nominations. Marcela Hebbard nominated Marilyn Hagerty for Chair and Marilyn Hagerty nominated Marcela Hebbard for Vice-Chair.

Motion to Nominate Marilyn Hagerty as Chair:

Motion: Marcela Hebbard

Second: Robert Gilbert

Motion passes

Motion to approve Marcela Hubbard as Vice-Chair:

Motion: Marilyn Hagerty

Second: Fidencio Mercado

Motion passes

5) Old Business: Approval of Minutes from April 14, 2023, meeting

Please respond via Teams regarding any revisions needed to the minutes.

Motion to approve: Jennifer Welbourne

Second: Fidencio Mercado

Motion passes

6) New Business: Review of Submissions

a) Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion to approve: Jennifer Welbourne

Second: Marcela Hebbard

Motion passes

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b) College of Liberal Arts

i) Department of History – **Presenter: David Fisher**

(1) New Course

Name	Type	Comments	Effective Catalog Year
HIST 3352 Race, Ethnicity, and Religion in Medieval Europe	New Course	New Prescribed Elective course offered in the History and Social Studies Composite degree plans. Was previously a Special Topics course.	AY24-25
HIST 3379 History of South Asia to 1947	New Course	New Prescribed Elective course offered in the History and Social Studies Composite degree plans.	AY24-25

Representative: David Fisher

Motion to approve: Fidencio Mercado

Second: Marcela Hebbard

Motion passes

Notes: Marcela asked if HIST 3379 could be included in the Asian Studies minor. The History department will reach out to the Writing and Language Studies department.

(2) Change Course

Name	Type	Comments	Effective Catalog Year
HIST 4399 Senior Research Seminar	Change Course	Change includes an update to the prerequisite narrative to include 15 advanced HIST hours: 6 advanced at the 4000 level hours and 9 advanced at the 3000 and/or 4000 level.	AY24-25

Representative: David Fisher

Motion to approve: Fidencio Mercado

Second: Marcela Hebbard

Motion passes

Notes: Dr. Saenz asked Michelle Madrid if the prerequisite was enforceable for HIST 4399 or if the department would have to monitor. Michelle confirmed that it can be enforced.

(3) Change Program

Name	Type	Comments	Effective Catalog Year
History (Minor Required), Bachelor of Arts	Change Program	Change includes the addition of new courses HIST 3352 to the Prescribed Electives - European History group and HIST 3379 to the Asian/Middle Eastern History group.	AY24-25
History (Teacher Certification), Bachelor of Arts	Change Program	Change includes the addition of new courses HIST 3352 to the Prescribed Electives - European History group and HIST	AY24-25

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		3379 to the Asian/Middle Eastern History group.	
Social Studies Composite, Bachelor of Arts	Change Program	Change includes the addition of new courses HIST 3352 to the Prescribed Electives - European History group and HIST 3379 to the World/Asian/Middle Eastern History group.	AY24-25
Social Studies Composite (Teacher Certification), Bachelor of Arts	Change Program	Change includes the addition of new courses HIST 3352 to the Prescribed Electives - European History group and HIST 3379 to the World/Asian/Middle Eastern History group.	AY24-25

Representative: David Fisher

Motion to approve: Fidencio Mercado

Second: Marcela Hebbard

Motion passes

ii) Department of Literature and Cultural Studies – **Presenter: Jean Braithwaite**

(1) Change Program

Name	Type	Comments	Effective Catalog Year
English (Creative Writing), Bachelor of Arts	Change Program	Change includes the addition of existing course ENGL 3353 to the Creative Writing Concentration - Advanced Creative Writing Electives group that was inadvertently left off the program of study. Implementation date: Spring 2024	Spring 2024

Representative: Jean Braithwaite

Motion to approve: Jennifer Welbourne

Second: Marcela Hebbard

Motion passes

iii) Department of Sociology – **Presenter: William Donner**

(1) Change Program

Name	Type	Comments	Effective Catalog Year
Sociology, Bachelor of Arts	Change Program	Change includes the addition of the existing course SOCI 3310 as an elective in the Prescribed Electives group.	AY24-25

Representative: William Donner

Motion to approve: Marcela Hebbard

Second: Fidencio Mercado

Motion passes

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c) College of Sciences

i) Department of Integrative Biological and Chemical Sciences – **Presenter: Kathryn Perez**

(1) New Course

Name	Type	Comments	Effective Catalog Year
BIOL 3201 Techniques in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Laboratory	New Course	New course that will replace BIOL 3409 in the Required Biology Foundation area of the new BS Biology major. An MDA will be created to allow BIOL 3409 to substitute for BIOL 3201 for students who move to the 24-25 catalog year and another to allow students on the 23-24 catalog and prior to use BIOL 3201 to substitute for BIOL 3409. The MDA is for Biology majors only.	AY24-25
BIOL 3215 Cellular, Molecular, and Genetics Lab	New Course	New course in the Biology Foundation group of the new BS Biology major. An MDA will be created to allow BIOL 4400 to substitute for BIOL 3215 for students who move to the 24-25 catalog year and another to allow students on the 23-24 catalog and prior to use BIOL 3215 to substitute for BIOL 4400.	AY24-25
BIOL 3230 Biology Data Analysis and Informatics	New Course	New course in the Required Biology Foundation group of the new BS Biology major.	AY24-25
BIOL 3313 Genetics	New Course	New course that will replace BIOL 3413 in the Required Biology Foundation group of the new BS Biology major. BIOL 3313 will have an equivalency to BIOL 3413 in Banner.	AY24-25
BIOL 3315 Cell and Molecular Biology	New Course	New course that will replace BIOL 3412 in the Required Biology Foundation group of the new BS Biology major. BIOL 3315 will have an equivalency to BIOL 3412 in Banner.	AY24-25
BIOL 3325 Integrative Physiology	New Course	New course option in the Required Biology Foundation group of the new BS Biology major.	AY24-25
BIOL 4340 Astrobiology	New Course	New course option in the Biological Science Electives group of the new BS Biology major.	AY24-25
BIOL 4435 Mammalian Disease Diagnosis and Clinical Applications	New Course	New course option in the Biological Science Electives group of the new BS Biology major.	AY24-25

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Representative: Kathryn Perez

Motion to approve: Jennifer Welbourne

Second: Fidencio Mercado

Motion passes

Notes: Marilyn asked if BIOL 1406 & BIOL 1407 were required prerequisites for the Biology courses. Kathryn confirmed that students will need to take the courses as part of the degree.

(2) Change Course

Name	Type	Comments	Effective Catalog Year
BIOL 3301 Ecology & Evolution	Change Course	Changes include update to the long and short titles, course description and the removal of "Consent of Instructor" to the prerequisite narrative.	AY24-25
BIOL 3404 Conservation Biology	Change Course	Changes include the addition of BIOL 3301 to the prerequisite narrative as a recommended course and the removal of the deleted BIOL 3409 course. BIOL 1406 and BIOL 1407 will remain as prerequisites.	AY24-25
BIOL 3407 Comparative Embryology	Change Course	Changes include the addition of BIOL 1406 and BIOL 1407 as required prerequisites; clarification of BIOL 2401, BIOL 2402 or BIOL 2428 as a required prerequisite; and the addition of BIOL 3313 (new course) as a recommended prerequisite. Recommendations are not enforced in Banner but are included in the course description.	AY24-25
BIOL 4317 Disease Epidemiology	Change Course	Changes include the addition of the new BIOL 3301 to the prerequisite narrative as a recommended course.	AY24-25
BIOL 4330 Molecular Evolution	Change Course	Changes include the addition of the new BIOL 3313 to the prerequisite narrative.	AY24-25
BIOL 4333 Immunology	Change Course	Changes include the addition of the new BIOL 3313 and BIOL 3315 to the prerequisite narrative.	AY24-25
BIOL 4388 Global Change Ecology	Change Course	Changes include the addition of the new BIOL 3301 to the prerequisite narrative.	AY24-25
BIOL 4423 Wildlife Ecology and Management	Change Course	Changes include the addition of the new BIOL 3301 to the prerequisite narrative.	AY24-25
BIOL 4426 Marine Ecology	Change Course	Changes include the addition of the new BIOL 3301 to the prerequisite narrative.	AY24-25
BIOL 4428 Medical Genomics	Change Course	Changes include the addition of the new BIOL 3313 to the prerequisite narrative.	AY24-25

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Representative: Kathryn Perez

Motion to approve: Jennifer Welbourne

Second: Fidencio Mercado

Motion passes

(3) Delete Course

Name	Type	Comments	Effective Catalog Year
BIOL 3310 Neurobiology	Delete Course	This course has been untaught and will be deleted.	AY24-25
BIOL 3403 Medical Microbiology and Immunology	Delete Course	This course has been untaught and will be deleted.	AY24-25
BIOL 3412 Cell Biology	Delete Course	This course will be deleted and replaced with BIOL 3315.	AY24-25
BIOL 3413 Genetics	Delete Course	This course will be deleted and replaced with BIOL 3313.	AY24-25
BIOL 3415 Molecular Biology	Delete Course	This course will be deleted and is not on any degree plans.	AY24-25
BIOL 4318 Ethnobotany	Delete Course	This course has been untaught and will be deleted.	AY24-25
BIOL 4400 Biological Communication (Capstone)	Delete Course	This course will be deleted. An MDA will be created to allow BIOL 4400 to substitute for BIOL 3215 for students who move to the 24-25 catalog year and another to allow students on the 23-24 catalog and prior to use BIOL 3215 to substitute for BIOL 4400.	AY24-25

Representative: Kathryn Perez

Motion to approve: Jennifer Welbourne

Second: Fidencio Mercado

Motion passes

(4) New Program

Name	Type	Comments	Effective Catalog Year
Biology, Bachelor of Science	New Program	New program that will replace the BS Biology (Biological Science) and BS Biology (Minor Required) degree plans.	AY24-25

Representative: Kathryn Perez

Motion to approve: Jennifer Welbourne

Second: Fidencio Mercado

Motion passes

Notes: Dr. Saenz asked Kathryn to elaborate on how the students who major in the Biological Science degree and interested in Pre-Med will benefit from the new major. The new major will allow free electives for Pre-Med prerequisites and electives. If students are not interested in Medical School, they can take courses in

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other disciplines. The Biology with Teacher Certification programs will be updated to reflect the new Biology Foundation courses. The proposals will be presented in the November meeting.

(5) Delete Program

Name	Type	Comments	Effective Catalog Year
Biology (Biological Science), Bachelor of Science	Delete Program	This program will be deleted and replaced with the new BS Biology.	AY24-25
Biology (Minor Required), Bachelor of Science	Delete Program	This program will be deleted and replaced with the new BS Biology.	AY24-25

Representative: Kathryn Perez

Motion to approve: Jennifer Welbourne

Second: Fidencio Mercado

Motion passes

d) Policy Updates - Laura Saenz

(1) Bachelors Degree Program Regulations

Policy	Current Policy	Updated Policy
Transfer of Credit for Second Degree-Seeking Students	<p><i>Transfer of Credit for Students with Previous Credit from External Institutions</i></p> <p>Second-degree seeking students with a bachelor's degree or prior credits from another Texas institution of higher education, out-of-state institution, or private institution must submit official transcripts from each institution of higher education from which they would like to utilize credit toward the second degree at UTRGV; however, the Office of Undergraduate Admissions will not automatically evaluate and post the transfer credit. For an evaluation of credits applicable towards the second degree, students should meet with an appropriate university personnel who will work directly with the major department, school, or program to determine how/whether coursework and credit from the first degree applies to their second degree.</p> <p>Transfer of Credit After Admission as a Second-Degree Seeking Student: All coursework completed after admission and enrollment at UTRGV as a second-degree seeking student must be taken in</p>	<p><i>Transfer of Credit for Students with Previous Credit from External Institutions</i></p> <p>Second-degree seeking students with a bachelor's degree or prior credits from another Texas institution of higher education, out-of-state institution, or private institution must submit official transcripts from each institution of higher education from which they would like to utilize credit toward the second degree at UTRGV; however, the Office of Undergraduate Admissions will not automatically evaluate and post the transfer credit. For an evaluation of credits applicable towards the second degree, students should meet with an appropriate university personnel who will work directly with the major department, school, or program to determine how/whether coursework and credit from the first degree applies to their second degree.</p> <p>Transfer of Credit After Admission as a Second-Degree Seeking Student: All advanced coursework completed after admission and enrollment at UTRGV as a second-degree seeking student must be</p>

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	residence at UTRGV to be applicable to the second degree.	taken in residence at UTRGV to be applicable to the second degree.
Minimum Degree Requirements	15. Non-Traditional Credit: A maximum of 45 hours of college credit will be accepted toward a bachelor's degree by any combination of extension, examination, or correspondence, with an 18-hour limit on correspondence credit. No credit will be awarded for "life experience."	15. Non-Traditional Credit: A maximum of 30 hours of college credit will be accepted toward a bachelor's degree by any combination of extension, examination, or correspondence, with an 18-hour limit on correspondence credit. No credit will be awarded for "life experience."

Representative: Laura Saenz

Motion to approve both policy updates: Jennifer Welbourne

Second: Marcela Hebbard

Motion passes

Notes: 1st policy revision is due to a large population of 2nd degree students coming back to get a Nursing degree and out of state students. It was not considered that after being admitted to a program that students may need to go to a Community College to take prerequisites. The current policy restricts students from doing that. The word "advanced" was added which states that any advanced coursework must be taken at UTRGV, but any lower-level coursework can be taken at a transfer institution. 2nd Policy – This is a clean-up due to a misalignment. Institutionally, 30 hours has been enforced. This will be updated to align the policies. Both policies will be amended and published.

7) Non-Voting Items

a) **Administrative Changes – Presenter: Kathryn Perez**

Department of Biology	New department of School of Integrative Biological and Chemical Sciences.	The department of Biology and Chemistry have merged into one new department.
Department of Chemistry	New department of School of Integrative Biological and Chemical Sciences.	The department of Biology and Chemistry have merged into one new department.

Notes: Both the Biology and the Chemistry departments merged to create the new School of Integrative Biological and Chemical Sciences. Due to a long history of leadership turnover in the Chemistry department and since the Chair of the Biology department was serving as Interim Chair of the Chemistry department for the last 2 years, Dean Incera saw an opportunity to collaborate and merge the two departments.

8) Announcements – Laura Saenz, Ex-Officio

a) **Next Meeting – November 17th**

9) Adjournment @ 9:56am

Motion to adjourn: Fidencio Mercado

Second: Jennifer Welbourne