**UO Committee on Courses**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** January 18, 2012

**Present:**
- Boss, Jack*
- Crosiar, John
- Engelking, Paul*
- Eveland, Sue
- Imamura, James*
- Jefferis, Mike
- Merskin, Deb*
- Peppis, Paul*
- Scott, Skelton
- Tuan, Mia
- Wahlstrom, Andrew
- Warden, Kathy
- White, Frances*

* Voting members

**Next meeting:** January 25, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM, Owyhee River Room

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**I. Announcements**

No announcement.

**II. Discussion**

**Biology Courses reviewed by Paul P:**

BI 281H, 282H, 283H. Basically, the Biology Department complied with all of the committee’s requests. The only exception was that they wanted labs to be 16 so that students have even number and can break into groups. The committee requested that Paul ask Biology what the role of the faculty would be with the courses and if GTFs or undergraduate peer advisors would have a roll. It was also requested that Biology submit a new differential for the honors criteria. (handout attached)

BI 372. This course is actually a four-course package with the expectation that the student would dedicate one term to the package. The committee requested that Biology share the course information with Anthropology and Ethnic Studies for feedback. Biology also asked for the committee’s approval on fees associated with the course and Paul will let them know that is not a matter decided by the committee. There was a recommendation that a co-requisite be applied to all courses in the package. Since ENVS 375 is a part of the package, it was suggested that the vote be postponed until Deb has a chance to present that course to the committee for review. The committee also requested that Paul talk with Biology about students taking the courses separate from the package and how that works with them taking BI 372 later.

**Graduate Level Course:**

Mia discussed her review of the graduate level courses. To avoid confusion in the future, she requested that all attachments regarding courses be dated so one doesn’t have to review the same material they may have reviewed already.

**III. Action Items**

No action items other than what is mentioned in the course discussions.
Dear Paul and the UO Committee on Courses, 16 January 2012

Thank you for your consideration of our Honors Biology proposal last term and for agreeing to continue reviewing it this winter. We recognize the rarity of this type of proposal, and so appreciate the careful deliberation with which our proposal is being handled.

The Biology department is prepared to reconfigure the format of the three courses that make up our proposed Honors Biology series so that the labs are small enough to meet the criteria required by your committee. However, we ask that we be allowed to offer labs with up to 16 students, rather than 15. In the courses that make up this series, students very often work in pairs and occasionally the pairs are asked to work together in groups of 4 students each. Having 16 students per lab section makes this arrangement easy to use. If this request is approved, we plan to limit enrollment in the courses that make up the honors series to 96 students with 6 lab sections of 16 students each.

I am also pleased to report that the Chemistry department, which had some objections to our initial proposal, supports the current configuration of the series. I have enclosed a memo that details this agreement.

Please don’t hesitate to let me know if you have any questions, or need any additional information to proceed with the review of our proposal.

Regards,

Cristin Hulslander
Curriculum Director

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An equal-opportunity, affirmative-action institution committed to cultural diversity and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act
The Department of Biology is discontinuing the Foundations Biology sequence (BI 251-253) and starting in winter 2013, will be offering the Honors Biology sequence (BI 281H –283H). Honors Biology will have the following prerequisites.

BI 281H: Math 111; CH 221 or 223 or 224H or 226H (B- or better in courses)
BI 282H: CH 222 or 225H (B- or better); BI 281H (C- or better)
BI 283H: CH 223 or 226H (B- or better); BI 282H (C- or better)*
*The BI 282H prerequisite will be waived for Biochemistry majors.

In the event that freshmen biochemistry majors do not meet the prerequisites, the Department of Chemistry will advise students to continue with their chemistry and math courses during their freshman year and begin the Honors Biology series winter term of their sophomore year. When this happens, the prereqs will change to allow biochemistry majors with a B- or better in the third course of General Chemistry or Advanced Chemistry (CH 223 or 226H) and a B- or better in Math 111 to enroll in BI 281H and 283H.

Both the Biology Department and the Department of Chemistry acknowledge that BI and BIC majors that have met the prerequisites for Honors Biology will have equal opportunity to register for BI 281H and 283H.

The Biology Department has agreed to offer the equivalent of the biology 250 series without restrictions during winter, spring and fall 2012. The three offerings will be part of a temporary Advanced Biology series (all courses offered with the experimental number BI 399). This will enable both freshman and sophomore biochemistry majors to get caught up on their biology prereqs so that they are ready to take CH 461 fall of their junior year (after organic chemistry). For those students that are scheduled to take both the equivalent of BI 251 and CH 461 during fall 2012, Chemistry will waive the requirement for BI 251.

Bruce Bowerman
Department Head, Biology

Cristin Hulslander
Curriculum Director, Biology

Michael Haley
Department Head, Chemistry

Julie Haack
Assistant Department Head, Curriculum Coordinator, Chemistry

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