

Development of an Undergraduate Major Committee (DUMC)

September 14, 2018, 300 – 4:00 pm, C123 Plant Sciences

AGENDA

Handouts: Agenda, latest version of curriculum

Presentation: Slides of major name survey results

Attendees: Tamla, Cini, Franck, Paul, Todd, Janet

1. Questions about process and timeline, follow up after department meeting
Preliminary Program Proposal to CoD on October 3

2. Discussion of name for major, follow up after department meeting

After much deliberation, those present think that Agricultural Biology will be the best name overall. We will discuss this at the 9/21 meeting and make a final decision with more committee members present. We think we can overcome the short comings (i.e. risk losing students who do not know they want to do something related to agriculture) in descriptions and marketing

3. Discussion of curriculum, follow up after department meeting (30 minutes)

For major, shoot for 36 credits for major. AUCC = 37 credits. 12 credits BSPM electives.

Have a 2 year plan to accommodate transfer students. Have a transfer seminar for them, if possible.

Design curriculum with “major requirements”, which are the competencies and departmental requirements that include seminars, ecology, evolution, soil science, genetics.

Move BSPM 302 Applied and General Entomology to year 3.

- Vamsi will work up the new version of the curriculum.

4. We do not feel we got clear support from the faculty regarding whether to proceed with the major
Need to have a secret vote on whether to have a major (i.e. go ahead with the comprehensive program proposal). Vote on Monday, 9/17. Closes Thursday, 9/ Summary document and draft curriculum.

Ballot wording:

Based on the information provided to you by the Develop an Undergraduate Major Committee, should our department develop the Comprehensive Program Proposal and establish an undergraduate major?

Yes

No

5. Next Steps: Curriculum development

- a. Revision of curriculum (Vamsi – see above)
- b. Completion of list of possible electives (Todd – Cini send materials to him).
- c. Narrow list of electives (week of 9/17, meeting 9/21)
- d. Grouping and narrowing list of electives

Splitting electives into groups:

- By discipline?
- By level of organization? Molecular, Organismal, Community, Ecosystem, etc.

To do Later

Identification of instructors and design of new courses for major

Gathering information on high impact practices (what are they? How are they done best? What is the evidence of their positive impact?)

- Freshman seminars
- Learning communities
- Service learning
- Undergraduate research
- e. Capstone courses

What BSPM courses are not in CIM? Franck will review the curriculum to find out.

Issues (already listed in Parking Lot): Equitable teaching loads; Tenure expectations (possible to reach tenure either through excellence in teaching & competence in teaching, or excellence in teaching and competence in teaching?); pay and promotion discrepancies.

Amy will bring this up with faculty and exec committee. Salary equity, retention, raises are all issues.