

Discovery Committee Minutes, January 31, 2024 (Zoom)

Present: Nicky Gullace (chair), Kathrine Aydelott (vice-chair), Sachiko Akiyama, Chris Bauer, Lara Demarest, Meaghan Dittrich, Roger Grinde, Cassie Lafleur, Lisa MacFarlane, Greg McMahon, Timothy Montminy, Steve Neer (proxy), Catherine Peebles, Sarah Prescott
New Members: Meaghan Dittrich, Lisa MacFarlane

Absent: Tammy Conrad, Lou Ann Griswold, Laura Upham

I. Welcome and Announcements

II. Action Items

- Discovery Committee and Writing Committee

- Nicky presented a motion, see Appendix 1, that brings Writing Program curricular decisions to be undertaken by the Discovery Committee to streamline the work of the two committees. The motion adds the University Writing Programs Director, Meaghan Dittrich (*Ex Officio*); Faculty Director of English 401, Lisa MacFarlane (voting); & the Faculty Writing Committee Rep to Discovery (voting), Kathrine Aydelott; onto the Discovery Committee to participate in discussions and decisions, particularly regarding the Writing Across the Curriculum Program.
- Nicky stated the WC is not officially disbanded as this is a pilot for the semester and the WC will reconvene on April 24, 2024, to evaluate. However, there is a logic to having the University Wide Curriculum decisions with one unified committee. This had been approved but never implemented under the previous Director of the Writing Program, Ed Mueller.
- It was noted that as the WC not a committee of the Faculty Senate but of the Provost's Office, this is not something the Faculty Senate needs to approve, but they will be kept informed.
- Concern was expressed that is being done for administrative reasons not curricular and that the WC and the DC have different functions.

Motion: Sachiko Akiyama moved and Sarah Prescott seconded approval of the motion.

Vote: Yes 6, No 0, Abstain 1. **Motion approved.**

- Minutes

Motion: Sarah Prescott moved and Chris Bauer seconded approval of the December 13, 2023, meeting minutes.

Vote: Yes 5, No 0, Abstain 2. **Minutes approved.**

- Student Petitions

1. Request to allow UNH course HIST 656: Twentieth Century Europe to satisfy HP.

Vote: Yes 8, No 0, Abstain 0. **Petition approved.** (atpaul121823)

2. Request to allow SNHU transfer course GAM 120: Intro to Game Development to satisfy ETS. **Vote:** Yes 1, No 6, Abstain 1. **Petition denied.** (smceps012224)

3. Request to allow UNH course CLAS 520B: Happiness & Ancient Views on the Good Life to satisfy WC.

Vote: Yes 8, No 0, Abstain 0. **Petition approved.** (ajcolsa012624)

4. Request to allow Purdue University transfer course CNIT 13600: Intro to Computer Technology & Applications to satisfy ETS.

Vote: Yes 1, No 7, Abstain 0. **Petition denied.** (emcolsa012924)

- Course Approvals

1. ANTH 530: Multispecies Planet - Animals, Plants, & Landscapes Across Cultures – ETS
New course.

Motion: Timothy Montminy moved and Sarah Prescott seconded approval of ANTH 530.

Vote: Yes 7, No 0, Abs 1. **Motion passed**

2. BIOL 411H: Honors/Principles of Biology I – BS/DLAB/INQ
Reactivating BIOL 411H to replace Honors sections of BIOL 411 to mirror how BIOL 412 is taught.
Syllabus is missing Discovery category, attributes, and SLOs

Motion: Timothy Montminy moved and Chris Bauer seconded conditional approval of BIOL 411H once syllabus is complaint.

Vote: Yes 8, No 0, Abs 1. **Motion passed.**

Course will be “rolled back” in CIM. Discovery Office will move it forward once compliant syllabus is received.

- Policy for Lab Instructor Training for Discovery Program Inquiry Lab Courses

Current practice: All Teaching Assistants who are lab instructors for Inquiry courses attend a mandatory training every August. Training for CEE 400, ECE 401, ESCI 501, ME 441 was organized by Discovery and delivered by CEITL. CEITL was eliminated during the budget reset and the Discovery office has taken on additional responsibilities, making this practice untenable.

Suggestion: Nicky reach out to the CEPS Dean's to discuss the need for them to take over the training. She can send them the training materials for reference. Chris suggested the TAs in the affected courses could attend the training held by the Chemistry Department.

Motion: Chris Bauer moved and Greg McMahon seconded rescinding the policy requiring Discovery and CEITL to host a training for TA's lab instructors for CEE 400, ECE 401, ESCI 501, ME 441. See Appendix 2.

VOTE: Yes 5, No 0, Abs 0. **Motion passed.**

III. Discussion

None

Next meeting February 14, 2024

Meeting adjourned 2:01 pm.

Appendix 1

Motion Regarding Merging of Writing Reps onto Discovery Committee: In light of the Writing Committee's vote to allow a Spring 2024 pilot, permitting Writing Program curricular decisions to be undertaken by the Discovery Committee with the addition of three key Writing Program Reps, we move to welcome the Writing Program Director (*Ex Officio*), the Faculty Director of English 401 (voting), and the Faculty Writing Committee Rep to Discovery (voting) onto the Discovery Committee to participate in discussions and decisions, particularly regarding the Writing Across the Curriculum Program. The University Writing Committee will suspend its meetings, but not disband, until deliberations at its final April 24th meeting, when the success of integrating the two committees will be evaluated. The decision will then be made on whether to discontinue the pilot (reverting to the old system of two separate committees) or to making it permanent, by disbanding the Writing Committee in favor of creating an integrated faculty curricular oversight committee (to adjudicate both WI and Discovery) under the umbrella of the Discovery Committee.

Rationale: The decision to onboard Writing Committee Reps onto the Discovery Committee was made by former Writing Program Director Ed Meuller several years ago and approved by the SVPAA at the time. Upon Ed's departure, however, final steps were not taken to implement the change. The original rationale for integration was:

- To eliminate redundancy and save faculty time by allowing one faculty committee to do the work of two. (The Discovery Committee already has faculty representation from each College and evaluates WI Discovery courses for compliance with WAC rules.)
- To consolidate submissions and decisions regarding the two pillars of the UNH General Education curriculum, WI and Discovery.
- To reduce staffing needs by eliminating the scheduling, document management, and communications associated with the second committee.

Given the elimination of 17 staff positions from Academic Affairs, this seemed like a prudent moment to resurrect Ed's plan for an integrated curriculum committee under Discovery. This change will not affect the Connors Writing Center or student support. The Connors Writing Center will maintain current tutoring volume and its high-quality tutoring staff for as long as it is permitted to maintain these programs and staffing levels. Furthermore, the Center is committed to providing workshops, as well as WI training to faculty, staff, and graduate students – duties all the more critical with the loss CEITL, a vital Writing Program partner. Given the additional work that will fall upon the Writing Center staff due to these budget cuts, the Director of the Connors Writing Center and the Faculty Director of Discovery and the UNH Writing Program agreed that it was essential to move forward with committee integration at this time. Our expectation is to evaluate its success at the end of the semester and to bring it forward for approval to the Faculty Senate, should the system prove to be advantageous.

Appendix 2

Motion Regarding Inquiry Instructor and TA Training: In light of the elimination of CEITL and the termination of Inquiry Training Facilitator Lauren Kordonowy, the Discovery Committee moved to rescind the policy requiring that Inquiry Lab Instructors and TAs attend a CEITL training in Inquiry pedagogy before teaching their first lab. We encourage programs teaching Inquiry Labs to draw on the instructional material available by CEITL, [INQUIRY TA Labs - Reading Materials](#), and to make sure that their Inquiry labs remain compliant. The Discovery Committee feels that new TAs need some training before going into the classroom or lab and we are sorry we can no longer provide this service through CEITL.

Rationale: Without CEITL to conduct the Inquiry training, we felt that it was advisable to rescind the policy, allowing programs more flexibility in how they would like to train their own TAs. COLSA assumed the duty of conducting its Inquiry Lab Trainings several years ago with success. Currently, the Discovery Program Manager organizes the Inquiry Training Sessions, taught by CEITL, to about 15-20 first-time CEPS TAs. Our hope is that CEPS programs that conduct their own trainings can integrate some of these Teaching Assistants into already existing CEPS trainings.