

Courses and Curriculum Committee

Feb 11, 2026

12:00 pm Central Time

Room – Mulder Hall Room 302

Members Present: Mrs. Laurie Pittman replaced Matthew Scalfano. All the other members are present.

Ex officio: Bobi Delaney, Dr. Elizabeth Beard, Eamon Halpin

Guests: Dr. Prakash Ghimire, Dr. Susan Bowers, Dr. Arlene Duos, Dr. Brenda Ellington, Dr. Cheri Bardales, Dr. Nate Sammons, Dr. Pedro Santos, Dr. Christof Stumpf

Vote summary

Course Modifications

INTE 1001 – No action required. None taken

INTE 2101 – 12 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstentions/0 not voting

ARIN 3200 – 12 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstentions/0 not voting

Gen Ed Status for BIOL 1101 and 1102 – 11 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstentions/1 not voting

Course Additions

INTE 3002 – 12 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstentions/0 not voting

INTE 3600 – Already in the catalog. No action taken.

INTE 3701 – 12 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstentions/0 not voting

INTE 3710 – 12 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstentions/0 not voting

INTE 4001 – 12 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstentions/0 not voting

INTE 4010 – 12 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstentions/0 not voting

INTE 4998 – 12 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstentions/0 not voting

CSCI 4998 – 12 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstentions/0 not voting

BIOL 3110 – 12 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstentions/0 not voting

BIOL 3210 – 12 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstentions/0 not voting

BIOL 3310 – 12 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstentions/0 not voting

BIOL 3901 – already in catalog. No action taken

BIOL 4210 – 11 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstentions/1 not voting due to absence

BIOL 4510 – 11 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstentions/1 not voting due to absence

BIOL 4910 – 11 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstentions/1 not voting due to absence

Curriculum Additions

Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Information Technology – 11 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstentions/1 not voting due to absence

Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Bioinformatics – 11 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstentions/1 not voting due to absence

MEETING MINUTES

Shortly after 12 PM, the meeting was called to order by Dr. Alice Blackwell.

After calling the meeting to order, Dr. Blackwell read into the minutes the results of the vote on the most recent set of minutes: 9 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstentions (Bell, Ordes), 1 not voting because committee member is on leave (Scalfano).

Dr. Blackwell called for a vote to batch vote when possible. Mrs. Duck moved; Mrs. Wright seconded. The results of the formal voice vote were as follows: 12 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

Dr. Blackwell introduced Dr. Elizabeth Beard, who explained that approval of these Accelerated Bachelor of Science degrees is time sensitive. Discussions ensued about how likely these degrees are to be accepted by graduate schools. Dr. Beard said that there is a plan to allow students who wish to go back and get the additional 30 hours. Further, one guest (Stumpf) remarked that three-year Bachelor degrees are the norm in some other countries.

Dr. Ghimire was authorized by a faculty vote to correct minor errors in the forms, MCO's, or curriculum proposals. Likewise, the Department of Biological Sciences authorized departmental leadership to correct minor errors.

Dr. Ghimire presented an overview of the proposed Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Information Technology. The proposed degree, while unique in this state, is similar to

successful Accelerated Bachelor of Science degrees elsewhere in the US. He also noted that the degree and its constituent courses were developed in conformity with ABET accreditation standards. This degree is aligned with the QEP in that it prepares students for workforce demands. Further, he emphasized that local industry is interested in hiring the graduates of this program and will write letters of support for the Board of Regents' consideration of this program.

Dr. Blackwell mentioned that a few courses on the agenda were actually added in error; they require no action. This was INTE 1001, INTE 3600, and BIOL 3901.

Batch 1 consisted of INTE 2101 (modification) and INTE 3002 (addition).

The first course considered was INTE 2101. It is being modified. A prerequisite was changed; CSCI 1250 better serves student needs as a pre-requisite than CSCI 2350.

The next item of consideration was the addition of INTE 3002. Dr. Blackwell noted the level of detail in the course description; Dr. Ghimire acknowledged that this a very specific description and explained that it needs to be so. All topics listed are integral for mastery of course content. All required elements (e.g., CIP, department vote, hours, title, etc.) were judged appropriate. Of note: this course, as well as all others considered from INTE in this session, does not require further investment from the college in facilities, supplies, library materials, etc.

Dr. Blackwell called for a motion, second, and vote on Batch 1. Mrs. Duck moved; Dr. Shaffie seconded. The results of the formal voice vote were 12 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

Next was Batch 2.

ARIN 3200 was to be modified. A prerequisite was being changed. Students may now take CSCI 1250 as a prerequisite. This change allows more students to take ARIN 3200 if they wish. It was noted that there is a minor typo in a non-essential part of the form in Curriculog; the course is ARIN 3200 in the MCO and the course description, but one part of the explanation of the degree modification lists the course as AIRN. This typo is not going to affect anything.

INTE 3600 was already in the catalog and required no action.

INTE 3701 was considered. All necessary elements were noted as present and appropriate. Again, the university's ability to offer the course without further investment was noted. Again, the level of detail in the course description was noted, and again, Dr. Ghimire and Dr. Shaffie both noted that all named topics were necessary for student success. This course fills an important niche not filled by other courses. There was a question as to

whether routers would need to be purchased; the in-person students will have access to routers, and any online student will be able to access materials with little cost.

INTE 3710 was then considered. Dr. Shaffie emphasized that this is not the same course as a course with a similar title in the Business Department; this course is focused on project management in Information Technology. A question about whether this is an online or in person degree was asked. The department emphasized that it could be either.

INTE 4001 was the next course addition considered. Elizabeth Duck noted that part of the MCO had bullets, while another part had numbering. There was concern that this discrepancy could cause the MCO to be rejected. The prevailing consensus was that this was not a deal-breaker and could be handled with a global edit when the final version is archived. Again, the question about specificity in the course description was met with the explanation that all named concepts were core concepts for the course and needed to be spelled out in order to ensure course integrity.

INTE 4010 was the next course addition considered. All required elements were appropriate. As with the other courses in this batch, the measurable objectives were favorably reviewed. It was noted that there is a hyphen between “human” and “computer” in the description but not in the title. Representatives from the department noted that it is often punctuated either way and does not change the meaning.

Dr. Blackwell called for a motion, second, and vote on Batch 2. Mrs. Wright moved to accept Batch 2; Dr. Alwell seconded. The results of the formal voice vote were 12 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

At this time, several committee members needed to leave to go teach, so Dr. Blackwell announced a break until 3.30 PM.

At 3.30 PM, the committee reassembled. All members were present.

Batch 3 was to be considered.

Review of INTE 4998 was generally favorable. Its alignment with the QEP and with workforce demand was noted. All required elements were appropriate and present. This was another course that can be taught by current staff and/or the person to be hired for a position that has already been approved and funded. Upon review, however, it was noted that the prerequisite of senior standing might be a problem, as this standing is granted when a student reaches 90 hours. Power Campus, noted Mrs. Delaney, would have problems because students were required to have senior standing when the degree requires 90 hours. The department agreed to remove senior class standing as a prerequisite as the other prerequisites listed ensure adequate preparation for this course.

Likewise, CSCI 4998 was also favorably reviewed for its alignment with the QEP and current workforce demands. All required elements were appropriate and present. Here again, however, senior standing was deemed a problematic prerequisite in a 90-hour program. The department agreed to remove this class status as a prerequisite.

The department recalled both courses to make the necessary changes.

Because INTE 4998 and CSCI 4998 were being amended, Batch 4 (the curriculum) could not be evaluated at that time.

Therefore, Mrs. Wright moved that the committee proceed to Batch 5. Dr. Stegall seconded. The vote was as follows: 12 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

Dr. Cheri Bardales presented an overview of the ABS in Bioinformatics. Key points included job readiness, the necessity of the specificity of the course descriptions because ALL listed concepts were core concepts required for mastery of course material and ability to be successful in the subsequent course, the structure of the degree, and the opportunities it affords. Questions arose as to why an ABS would be offered in this discipline. Dr. Bardales noted that students would need to be calculus ready (as Chemistry requires of its students currently) and that, in fact, this degree equips students for entry level jobs or graduate study.

In the ensuing discussion, Dr. Shaffie asked Drs. Bardales, Santos, Bowers, and Sammons about how the university was offering an Accelerated Bachelor of Science curriculum in Bioinformatics when many Bioinformatics programs are graduate programs. Dr. Bardales replied that there are many undergraduate degrees in Bioinformatics or the closely related Computational Biology degree. Dr. Santos added that many of the entry-level bioinformatics jobs are specifically for those holding Bachelor's degrees; anyone with a master's or PhD is considered to be overqualified. Thus, the proposed curriculum is designed to fill workforce need for entry-level jobs.

Dr. Bardales also explained in detail how a student could earn this 90-hour degree in three years.

Dr. Bardales also said that the proposed Bioinformatics curriculum does not duplicate other curricula on campus, though students in that curriculum will of necessity take some CSCI and ARIN courses.

The first course addition considered was for BIOL 3110. All necessary elements (CIP, vote, etc.) were judged appropriate. The description was praised for its thoroughness, and the objectives were noted for their measurability. However, a course not in the catalog, BIOL 3092, was listed as a prerequisite. The department recalled this proposal to fix this error.

At this time, Dr. Ghimire returned and indicated that the proposals and MCO's for CSCI 4998 and INTE 4998 had been fixed. Senior class status was no longer a prerequisite in either.

Alwell moved to toggle back to Batch 3, and Wright seconded. The vote to approve was 12 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

The problematic prerequisites for CSCI 4998 and INTE 4998 had been removed.

Therefore, Mrs. Wright moved to approve Batch 3, and Dr. Shaffie seconded. The vote was 12 in favor of approval, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

The committee then moved to consider Batch 4, the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Information Technology. The credit hours added up. All courses were either already in the catalog or had been approved earlier in this meeting. The curriculum was favorably reviewed for its cohesiveness, low cost to both the students and school (students will spend 25% less than on a four-year degree) and local industry buy-in. The objectives were assessed to be measurable. However, a small typo ("systemic" where "systematic" would be appropriate) was noted. The department recalled the ABS in Information Technology.

Then the committee moved to skip ahead to Batch 5. Alwell moved; Wright seconded. The vote was 12 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

While this group of courses is listed as a batch, all had to be voted on individually because each has the prior course as a prerequisite. The question was asked as to how this degree could be attained in 3 years; it was noted that this is an exclusively online degree in which the 3000- and 4000- level BIOL courses listed below would be taken in rapid succession, including summer sessions, in 7-week sessions.

The committee then took up again consideration of BIOL 3110. The course had previously been reviewed favorably. BIOL 3092 was no longer listed as a prerequisite. The committee found no further problems.

Mrs. Wright moved to accept BIOL 3110; Dr. Shaffie seconded. The vote was 12 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

The committee next considered BIOL 3210. All required elements were noted as present and appropriate. It was noted with this course, as well as with the others, that it was a unique course that would not infringe on other departments' market share. The detailed course description was judged appropriate in this context, as with the other courses in this group. Enrollment was projected to be robust, as with the other courses in this group. As with the other courses in this group, this course can be taught with current supplies, facilities, and faculty. Objectives were judged to be measurable.

Mrs. Duck moved to approve BIOL 3210; Dr. Allen seconded. The results of the formal voice vote were 12 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

The next course considered was BIOL 3310. All required elements were noted as present and appropriate. Again, it was noted that this course would not infringe on other departments' curricula, and again, it was noted that the level of detail in the description was necessary to ensure the integrity of the course.

Dr. Shaffie moved to approve BIOL 3310; Dr. Stegall seconded. The formal voice vote was 12 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

At this time, Dr. Shaffie needed to leave the meeting.

While BIOL 3901 appears on the agenda and in the degree program, it is in fact, already in the catalog. No action was needed.

The committee next considered BIOL 4210. All required elements were present and appropriate. A committee member needed clarification of some of the technical terms; Drs. Bardales and Miksanek explained what these terms mean.

Mrs. Duck moved to accept BIOL 4210; Dr. Bell seconded. The formal voice vote was 11 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and one not voting because of absence (Dr. Shaffie).

The committee next considered BIOL 4510. All elements were judged present and appropriate. The course objectives were noted to be measurable. The course can be taught with current faculty and resources.

Mrs. Pittman moved to accept the proposal for BIOL 4510. Alwell seconded. The formal voice vote was 11 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and one absence (Dr. Shaffie).

The committee next considered BIOL 4910. This is the capstone. Capstone courses were noted as being in line with the QEP and as burnishing students' durable skills. All required elements noted as present and appropriate. Again, this course does not duplicate others, and it can be taught with current faculty and resources.

Mrs. Duck moved to accept the proposal for BIOL 4910; Mrs. Wright seconded. The formal voice vote was 11 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, and 1 absent (Dr. Shaffie).

The committee next considered General Education status for BIOL 1101 and BIOL 1102, the online versions of BIOL 1201 and BIOL 1202. BIOL 1101 and BIOL 1102 do not have labs, but they are otherwise equivalent to BIOL 1201 and BIOL 1202. Upon review, both courses were considered to meet the standards for General Education courses, as they are broad, introductory courses introducing students to the scientific method.

Mrs. Wright moved to grant General Education Status to BIOL 1101 and BIOL 1102. Dr. Allen seconded. The voice vote was 11 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, and 1 absent (Shaffie).

Once all these courses had been approved, the committee considered the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Bioinformatics. There was a question as to why 9 people had voted on the curriculum while only 7 voted on most of the courses. Dr. Bardales and Dr. Bowers noted that some faculty members had been absent from one vote. The committee noted that all constituent courses were either already in the catalog or had been approved earlier in the meeting. It was noted that the curriculum emphasized both job readiness and durable skills. Discussion ensued about the ACT required. Dr. Bardales responded that the ACT requirement is part of the Calculus requirement: placement in Calculus requires a 25 on the ACT. It was further noted that the Bachelor of Science in Chemistry similarly requires calculus as its designated General Education math. The General Education hours are 41, as both Calculus classes are 4 hours. All the hours added up. Dr. Bardales spoke about how this online-only program is able to offer internships. Internships, it is noted, are considered to prepare students for entry into the workforce and are consistent with the aims of the QEP.

The curriculum was favorably reviewed overall.

Mrs. Wright moved to accept the proposal for the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Bioinformatics. Dr. Stegall seconded. The formal voice vote was 11 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, 1 absent (Dr. Shaffie).

The committee then looped back to the sole remaining agenda item, the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Information Technology. The curriculum had been favorably reviewed for its low cost to students and the university, its ability to place students in lucrative LOCAL jobs, and its general cohesiveness. The sole point of contention had been a typo, which was corrected.

Mrs. Duck moved to accept the proposal for the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Information Technology. Mrs. Pittman seconded. The formal voice vote was as follows: 11 in favor of accepting the proposed curriculum, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, 1 (Dr. Shaffie) absent.

With no further business to conduct, Dr. Blackwell thanked the committee for its service and asked for a motion to adjourn. Dr. Alwell moved to adjourn. Dr. Stegall seconded. The formal voice vote was 11 in favor of adjournment, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, and 1 not voting because absent.

The meeting concluded at 5:15 PM.

