

**Courses and Curriculum Committee**  
**Minutes**  
**March 26, 2025**

Present: Alice Blackwell, Jennifer Wright, Richard Elder, Cole Franklin, Laurie Pittman, Jennifer Stegall, Adena LeJeune, John Allen, Sandra Purifoy, Ahmed Shaffie, Kerry Ordes, and Elizabeth Duck

Absent: No one was absent. All members of the Committee were present.

Guests: Eamon Halpin, Andrew Hirschak, and Beth Whittington

Once a quorum had been established, Dr. Alice Blackwell called the meeting to order at 3:01 pm.

The minutes from the February 26, 2025, meeting were unanimously approved. All 12 committee members voted online to approve the minutes.

Dr. Blackwell introduced Dean Beth Whittington, who provided a detailed synopsis of the new proposed degree, the BS in Disaster Preparedness and Response. The degree is designed for people already working in this field or associated ones and seeking stronger credentials that will allow them to take different and/or more responsible roles in local, state, and federal agencies. This degree, at this time, would be unique in the state of Louisiana. The degree has already received support from the Board of Supervisors.

All proposals (all classes plus the new degree) contained the same information about the program's needs, and Whittington addressed these: the courses will not require any new equipment, resources, supplies, or library materials, but one new full-time faculty member will be needed. This position has already been approved, budgeted, and posted.

Adena LeJeune made a motion to batch vote where possible. Ahmed Shaffie seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote (Blackwell, Shaffie, LeJeune, Wright, Elder, Franklin, Ordes, Pittman, Purifoy, Duck, Stegall, and Allen) with 12 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstaining.

The first course reviewed was a new required course, DSPR 2100, *Introduction to Disaster Preparedness and Response*. The department votes, credit hours, effective date, and CIP code were noted. The course will be one of the required courses in the BS in Disaster Preparedness and Response. The course description and the course objectives were in alignment.

A new course, DSPR 2200, *Disaster Preparedness and Planning*, was discussed. The required course will be required for the BS in Disaster Preparedness and Response. The department votes, CIP code, credit hours, and effective date were noted. The course description and the course objectives align.

Next, DSPR 2300, *Disaster Response and Recovery*, was reviewed. The department votes, CIP code, the credit hours, and the effective date were duly noted. The prerequisites were reviewed. The course description and course objectives were in alignment. Although the course will be required for the BS in Disaster Preparedness and Response, the course may be of interest to criminal justice majors.

Prior to the beginning of the meeting, the department withdrew DSPR 2400 from consideration.

The next new course, DSPR 2500, *Legal Aspects of Emergency Services*, was reviewed. The department votes, CIP code, effective date, and credit hours were noted. The course will be required for the BS in Disaster Preparedness and Response. The course description and the course objectives were in alignment. The course objectives clearly displayed measurable objectives.

The new course, DSPR 3100, *Hazard Mitigation: Theory and Application*, was reviewed. The course will be required in the BS in Disaster Preparedness and Response. The department vote, CIP code, credit hours, and effective date were noted. The course description included the prerequisites. The course description and course objectives were in alignment.

It was noted that there is no DSPR 3200.

The new course, DSPR 3300, *Cyber Threats and Homeland Security*, was discussed. The department votes, CIP code, credit hours, and effective date were noted. The prerequisites and the course description were reviewed. The course will be required for the BS in Disaster Preparedness and Response. The course description and the course objectives were in alignment.

Next, DSPR 3400, *Emergency Management: Policies and Political Foundations*, was discussed. The course is a required course in the BS in Disaster Preparedness and Response. The department votes, CIP code, effective date, and credit hours were reviewed. The prerequisites were clearly displayed in the course description. The course description and course objectives were in alignment.

DSPR 3500, *Critical Infrastructure*, a new course was discussed. The course will be required for the BS in Disaster Preparedness and Response. The department votes, CIP code, effective date, and credit hours were reviewed. The prerequisites were clearly displayed in the course description. The course description and course objectives were in alignment.

The new course, DSPR 4100, *Business and Industrial Emergency Management*, was reviewed. The two 2000-level prerequisites were noted. The course will be required for BS in Disaster Preparedness and Response. The department votes, CIP code, effective date, and credit hours were reviewed. The prerequisites were clearly displayed in the course description. The course description and course objectives were in alignment. The course objectives were measurable.

*\*\*Chair's note: a few minutes after the meeting, a committee member who thought something looked amiss checked again and found a discrepancy between the prerequisites for DPSR 4100 as listed in the MCO and in Curriculog itself. The department withdrew this proposal and fixed it immediately.*

Next, DSPR 4200, *Business and Industrial Emergency Management*, was reviewed. As with the other proposals, all required elements were noted as present and appropriate. This, too, will be required for the new degree. DSPR 2100 and 2200 will be prerequisites.

The next course, DSPR 4300, *Intelligence: Research and Analysis*, was discussed. The two 2000-level prerequisites were noted. The course will be required for BS in Disaster Preparedness and Response. The department votes, CIP code, effective date, and credit hours were reviewed. The prerequisites were clearly displayed in the course description. The course description and course objectives were aligned. The course objectives were measurable.

Next, DSPR 4400, *U.S. Border and Transportation Security: Challenges and Strategies*, was reviewed. The department votes, CIP code, effective date, and credit hours were reviewed. The course will be required for the BS in Disaster Preparedness and Response. The prerequisites were clearly displayed in the course description. The course description and course objectives were in alignment. The course objectives were measurable.

Lastly DSPR 4500, *Geospatial Information System (GIS)*, was discussed. The department votes, CIP code, effective date, and credit hours were reviewed. The course will be required for the BS in Disaster Preparedness and Response. The prerequisites were clearly displayed in the course description. The course description and course objectives were in alignment. The course objectives were measurable.

Richard Elder made a motion to approve DSPR 2100, DSPR 2200, DSPR 2300, DSPR 2500, DSPR 3100, DSPR 3300, DSPR 3400, DSPR 3500, DSPR 4100, DSPR 4200, DSPR 4300, DSPR 4400, and DSPR 4500. Kerry Ordes seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote (Blackwell, Shaffie, LeJeune, Wright, Elder, Franklin, Ordes, Pittman, Purifoy, Duck, Stegall, and Allen) with 12 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstaining. All Committee members were present and voted.

In Batch #2 the Bachelor of Science in Disaster Preparedness and Response degree was reviewed. Kerry Ordes explained the degree would be training professionals for jobs with city, state, and federal agencies. The department votes and signatures were noted. The RIS was reviewed noting the need for faculty; LSUA's library, facilities, etc., are sufficient. Money has been budgeted to hire the new faculty member.

The committee next reviewed the degree itself. The Social Science General Education requirements were prescriptive, as were some others. The remaining General Education requirements are more flexible but must be approved general education courses. It was noted that some of the credit hours were enclosed in parentheses, and others were not. The

consistency was questioned, but the Committee felt the lack of punctuation did not affect the courses proposed in the degree. Dr. Franklin asked whether the required management course, MGMT 4310, had any prerequisites; Mrs. Wright confirmed that MGMT 4310 *DOES NOT* have prerequisite requirements. Committee members asked about prerequisites in a few other courses (particularly some DSEM courses and ENGL 3002); there were none that would require prescribed courses beyond those already spelled out in the degree plan.

Richard Elder made a motion to approve the Bachelor of Science in Disaster Preparedness and Response degree with Kerry Ordes seconding the motion. The motion passed by voice vote (Blackwell, Shaffie, LeJeune, Wright, Elder, Franklin, Ordes, Pittman, Purifoy, Duck, Stegall, and Allen) with 12 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstaining. All Committee members were present and voted.

Dr. Blackwell announced the next meeting will be April 2, 2025, at 3:00 pm. An agenda will be sent via email.

With no further business, Adena LeJeune made a motion to adjourn with Jennifer Wright seconding the motion. The motion passed by voice vote (Blackwell, Wright, Elder, Franklin, Ordes, Pittman, Purifoy, Duck, Stegall, and Allen) with 12 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstaining. All Committee members were present and voted.

The meeting officially adjourned at 3:55 pm CT.  
Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Purifoy  
Secretary

*\*\*Chair's note: upon reviewing the agenda after the meeting, the chair realized that DSPR 2100 needed to be considered separately from all other DSPR courses, as DSPR 2100 is a pre-requisite for all others. Further, DSPR 2200 is a prerequisite for all the 4000's, so the 4000-level courses must be considered separately from DSPR 2100 AND DSPR 2200.*

*Out of an abundance of caution, the chair recommended reaffirming the vote on all courses **besides DSPR 2100** at the next meeting (4/2/2025). At that meeting, DSPR 2200, DSPR 2300, and DSPR 2500 were re-approved as a batch. DSPR 3100, 3300, 3400, 3500, 4100 (amended), 4200, 4300, 4400, and 4500 were then re-approved as a batch. The BS in Disaster Preparedness and Response was then approved again. Motions, seconds, and votes for these items will be provided with the April 2 minutes.*