

University Curriculum Committee

Report 5/7/15

Chair: Alistair Welchman

Three issues are before the UCC:

1. Proposed BA in Multicultural Early Childhood Education (postponed from April)
2. Proposed BS in Chemical Engineering
3. Proposed Minor in Environmental science

BA in Multicultural Early Childhood Education

The UCC received a memo from Larry Williams, Vice Provost and Dean of University College on 3/18 recommending approval of a new BA in Multicultural Early Childhood Education. The degree will be housed in the Department of Interdisciplinary Teaching and Learning in the College of Education and Human Development and is intended to serve students who want to gain employment in early childhood education, for instance in Pre-K (e.g. PK4SA) or educational institutions like the SA Zoo or Children's Museum, but who do not need or want teacher certification to teach in public schools. There are several similar programs at other schools in Texas, but not in San Antonio. The BA proposal includes two minors (which also appear to function as concentrations within the degree) in Early Dual Immersion or Early Intervention.

The UCC voted 5 in favor of the proposal, one against with one abstention and therefore recommends that the Senate accept the proposal.

Committee members mentioned three drawbacks: the apparent lack of a requirement for competency in a foreign language; the cost and enrollment projections in the proposal are not in the usual format; and the committee noted that all the competing programs are BS degrees rather than BA degrees.

BA in Chemical Engineering

The UCC received a memo from Larry Williams, Vice Provost and Dean of University College on 4/22 recommending approval of a new BS in Chemical Engineering. The program will be housed in the Department of Biomechanical Engineering, with a long-term view to the creation of a new Department of Chemical Engineering. The program will be the only one in the state outside of UT Austin, and the only one at a Hispanic Serving institution. The degree will have five tracks (Bioengineering; Energy; Environmental; Materials; Management) preparing students both for industry and possible graduate school entry. Texas has the largest number of chemical engineers in the country, and the second highest mean annual wage (~\$120k).

The UCC voted 7 in favor of the proposal with one abstention, and therefore recommends that the Senate accept the proposal.

Several committee members noted how expensive the program is slated to be (\$2m over 5 years). Most of the funding comes from grants and formula funding (over \$1.5m). But nearly \$0.5m is from reallocated funds, and the committee wonders where these funds will be reallocated from, and what contingency plans there are if 'potential' grand funds don't materialize.

Minor in Environmental science

The UCC received a memo from Larry Williams, Vice Provost and Dean of University College on 3/25 recommending approval of a new minor in Environmental Science. The minor will be housed in the Department of Environmental Science in the College of Science. The minor complements an existing major in the same department and is designed to respond to the increasing importance of environmentally literate decision-makers in the business world who may not need or want to major in environmental science. There are several similar programs at local universities. No new resources are required for this minor.

The UCC voted 6 in favor of the proposal with 2 abstentions, and therefore recommends that the Senate accept the proposal.