

UCC Final Report for the 2023-2024 Academic Year

The University Curriculum Committee (UCC) consists of eight Academic Senate appointed faculty and three ex-officio members from Academic Affairs. The UCC members are very dedicated as shown by the committee always achieving a quorum for action at all meetings during the academic year. The UCC is a group of diverse and talented faculty who are dedicated to making Ferris State University better through curriculum. The committee enthusiasm is evident by the number of members who have sought reappointments to the committee.

UCC Members:

Representative	Department
Mari Kermit-Canfield	Librarians and Counselors
David Bright	Pharmacy
Rusty Leonard, Chair	Col. Engr. Technology
Emily Zyla	Col. Health Professions
Alex Manga	Optometry, Out of College
Katherine Harris	Col. Arts & Sciences
Mark Thomson	Senate Rep
Kasey Thompson	Business
Mandy Seiferlein, Ex-Officio	Academic Affairs
Eric Haner, Ex-Officio	Registrar's Office
Marsha Longbrake, Ex-Officio	MyDegree

UCC Statement of Purpose:

The University Curriculum Committee screens proposals for curriculum additions and revisions to ensure that they are consistent with the best interests of the University and meet the rapidly changing needs of the workforce. It is the intent of the Committee to conduct the reviews as

expeditiously as possible in a manner that facilitates development of new proposals and updates existing programs.

1. Proposal Numbers

The UCC is a very busy committee with many proposals to read prior to each meeting. For the 2023-2024 academic year, the UCC processed 81 proposals, including 16 proposals rolled in from last year. Of those 81 proposals, 57 were supported by the UCC, 3 were withdrawn, 1 expired, 1 was denied by Dean, 3 were combined, and 16 are rolling over to the next year.

For comparison, in the 2022-2023 academic year, the UCC processed 91 proposals, including 40 proposals rolled in from last year. Of those 91 proposals, 56 were supported by the UCC, 4 were withdrawn, 1 expired, 5 were denied by Deans, and 25 are rolling over to the next year.

2. Deadlines

Curriculum deadlines are that the proposal complete all approvals and be supported by the Academic Senate at the December meeting.

3. Meetings and Manual

The UCC continued serving the university community during the 2023-2024 academic year. The UCC received support for its new manual and process alterations in the fall of 2023. With COVID-19 in the rearview mirror, UCC meetings remained online out of convenience while the Academic Senate meetings moved to face-to-face for the entire academic year.

4. FSU KCAD Equivalency Project

The UCC began a process to merge KCAD courses into the catalog, banner, and gen ed sortable list. Activity on the FSU/KCAD equivalency/pre-requisite project is now complete. The concerns that initiated this endeavor stemmed from KCAD courses treated as “transfer equivalencies” within the FSU system. In other words, KCAD courses showed in the system as external to FSU, the same as FSU would treat GRCC classes. As part of the project, existing KCAD courses were evaluated for General Education equivalency. Additionally, KCAD courses were evaluated for FSU equivalency and vice versa. The Team of reviewers was comprised of stakeholders from both KCAD and FSU and they reviewed 474 courses with 37 determined equivalent in some way. There is now only one Banner system where all courses for both KCAD and FSU now reside which removed the barriers that students experienced when attempting to change majors, take classes, certificates, minors, etc.. Indeed, there is now a system in place to handle all future courses regardless of which institution the courses originate. We wish to thank Deedee Stakely from FSU and Stephen Halko from KCAD for their dedication to this project.

5. Future Plans

For the next year, the UCC plans to continue support with implementation of the Curriculog software, along with maintaining the current method of processing proposals. We have a major UCC manual rewrite this summer that includes supporting the changes needed to address the Curriculog process.

6. Zero Credit Courses

A few requests have come in to the UCC asking for Zero Credit courses. At other institutions, zero credit courses keep a student on active status in graduate and doctoral

programs while completing a thesis or dissertation. Additionally, some institutions use zero credit hour courses for directed research or for experiences that are repeated often, such as playing a musical instrument in an organized ensemble. Indeed, we are working with interested parties to develop the requirements for Ferris.

7. Certificate Designation Cleanup Proposal

The currently approved 2023-2024 Curriculum Planning and Procedures Manual (Section H.3 Certificates and Concentrations) outlines the following certificate naming designations:

- CERT for Certificate (undergraduate level)
- ASCT is for Advanced Studies Certificate (graduate level)
- GRCT for Graduate Certificate (graduate level)
- PGCT for Postgraduate Certificate (graduate level)
- PRCT for Professional Certificate

Currently, all existing certificates regardless of level are coded as “CERT”. As such, there have historically been program codes incorrectly scribed as “CERT, undergraduate level”. We outlined the current programs impacted, and the proposed new certificate type/code in a Certificate Clean-up Validation Proposal that is working its way through the curriculum process.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve you.

Russell A. Leonard Jr., PhD