

**EPC Minutes  
December 18, 2023**

**Attendance:** Jim Barber, Annie Blazer, Candice Benjes-Small, Ben Boone, Myriam Cotton, Michael Cronin, Alana Davis, Jim Deverick, Cathy Forestell, Michael Gaynes, Brennan Harris, Oliver Kerscher, Christy Porter, Denise Ridley-Johnston, Megan Sanbury, Matt Smith, Laura Zimmer. Guests: Jennifer Dahnke, Chris Hein, Sid Mitra

**1. Approval of the Dec. 11 minutes**

Approved by unanimous consent.

**2. Consent calendar**

APIA 205	Approaches to Asian and Pacific Islander American Studies	course change
MUSC E16	Melodia: Eastern European Music Ensemble	course change

Approved.

**3. Other proposals**

EDUC 426	Characteristics and Adaptations for Students with Developmental Disabilities and Autism Spectrum Disorder	C350
PUBP 491	Race, Gender, and Public Policy	C350
PUBP 491	Race, Gender, and Public Policy	C400

EDUC 426: Ben requested a pause on consideration of this course. He will work with Lindy Johnson, Chair of Curriculum & Instruction, to clarify how the COLL 300 and 350 attributes will align with student teaching.

PUBP 491: Annie asked if the COLL 350 and 400 attributes would apply to the topics course (PUBP 491) as a whole or just this topic (Race, Gender, and Public Policy). It was affirmed that we are only approving attributes for this topic.

Another comment noted the lack of explanation in Curriculog for how assignments will promote critical analysis and problem-solving. This information is present in the syllabus.

Approved.

#### 4. New Business

Proposed Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in Marine Science in the School of Marine Science (SMS) at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS)

At 1:15 p.m. the committee was joined by representatives from VIMS, Jennifer Dahnke, Chris Hein, and Sid Mitra.

Discussion concerning the proposed major revolved around several issues:

1. *Status of the current Minor in Marine Science:* The minor, as offered through A&S, will remain. It currently confers 12-15 minors per year.
2. *The nature and extent of discussions with collaborating units, notably, Biology, Chemistry, and Geology:* The chairs of each department have been consulted, but apart from Geology, faculty within these departments have not formally discussed this proposal.
3. *The expectations of the residency semester:* It is anticipated that majors will participate in a concentrated course of study the fall semester of their junior year. This would take place on the Gloucester campus with transportation provided to and from Williamsburg.
4. *Enrollment:* Enrollment is estimated to be 20-30 students per year.
5. *Viability of a double major:* It is expected that many students would have a second major (Biology, Geology, Environment Science, Integrative Conservation, humanities, etc.) The major is designed to be flexible to allow for additional majors, minors, COLL requirements, electives, and study abroad.
6. *Major Writing Requirement:* The major writing requirement has yet to be codified, but there will be a COLL 400 capstone that could serve this purpose.
7. *Concern about overextending interdisciplinary programs.*
8. *COLL 100/150:* There was a request to provide additional teaching power for COLL 100 & 150 as well as other requirements. These courses can be added to the catalog in anticipation of faculty hires.
9. *Co-requisites:* A suggestion was made to offer co-requisites in addition to pre-requisites to ease the declarations of major.
10. *Equity:* The residency semester may prove to be a barrier to many students due to time limitations, economic concerns, accessibility needs, etc. Areas that the representatives highlighted to address this were the removal of the fields course requirement, a commitment to providing transportation, and increased opportunities for paid work/study positions.

The discussion with the VIMS representatives ended at 1:50 p.m. and they left the meeting.

## **5. Internal discussion**

Discussion continued. The committee agreed to suspend voting on the proposal until all partner units have been consulted.

Action items also included further discussion of student equity.

**Meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.**

**Minutes submitted by Michael Gaynes.**