

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
The Undergraduate Educational Policy and Curriculum Committee

**Minutes**

240 SH

November 7, 2024

*Attending:* Cornelia Lang (chair), Asha Bhandary, Noelle Franzone, Megan Gogerty, Liz Lundberg (staff), Julianna Pacheco, Sanvesh Srivastava, DeAndre Steger, Amy Strathman, Rachel Young

*Absent:* Rodica Curtu, Anita Jung, Emilie Maurel-Destruel

1. First the committee welcomed Hai Fu, Associate Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy, to discuss proposed changes to the Astronomy BA program. Professor Fu explained that astronomy is a very popular second major for students with a primary major in physics, because while both physics and astronomy are challenging programs, they have significant overlap in their coursework. The department offers both a BS and BA in astronomy, and the BS has typically been seen as the better choice for students intending to go to graduate school and/or go into research. The BA is considered an option for students intending to pursue K-12 teaching, science journalism, and other career fields. The issue the department would like to address is that currently the BS and BA require the same astronomy courses. While the math and physics requirements are not as rigorous for the BA, having the same astronomy courses required makes the difference between the BS and BA negligible, and very few students choose the BA. The proposal is to reduce the astronomy sequence of the BA by two courses; the courses that would be removed provide a strong preparation for graduate school, but are not needed for students who don't want to pursue an advanced degree in astronomy. Professor Hai explained that this proposal received unanimous support from astronomy faculty.

UEPCC was similarly supportive of this proposal. The committee discussed enrollment numbers in the BA and BS, as well as possibilities for making the BA more distinct from the BS, perhaps cultivating its own strengths by developing courses in science writing and/or teaching (at some point in the future). The committee also discussed the ways the math, physics, and astronomy courses in this curriculum work together, and Professor Hai explained how nothing is being removed that provides foundational content for any other required courses. He also explained that the BA already requires fewer math courses than the BS and how this proposed change will bring the astronomy requirements into alignment with the math requirements. The physics core of the Astronomy BA will be left as is for now, and students in this program do receive enough math education to succeed in those courses. The committee supports this change and the thought the department is putting into developing and communicating the value of the BA as distinct from the BS.

2. Next the committee reviewed and approved the minutes from October 24, 2024. All approved minutes can be found [here](#).
3. The committee then reviewed the following courses recommended by the General Education Curriculum Committee (GECC) for General Education (GE) CLAS Core status.

- a. LING:1090 *Language and Globalization*: GECC approved this course for International and Global Issues, effective Spring 2025. UEPC was supportive of this course receiving this status.
- b. TR:1077 *Perspectives on Leisure and Play*: GECC approved this course switching from the Social Sciences area to Values and Society, effective Fall 2025, and UEPC was also supportive of this change.
- c. SIED:4110 *Environmental Issues of the Colorado Rockies*: GECC approved this course for Natural Sciences with Lab, effective Summer 2025, and UEPC supported this approval as well. This course is unusual for this category, because it involves travel and occurs over a compressed timeframe, but the committees were satisfied that it meets the learning outcomes for this GE area and will be expanded to two sections per summer to accommodate more students.

Respectfully submitted,

Asha Bhandary  
Associate Professor, Philosophy