

COURSE CHANGES (SCUS 2045)

The following course changes, effective Spring 2021, were approved by delegated authority.

a. Faculty of Applied Sciences

1. School of Mechatronic Systems Engineering

- (i) Title, prerequisite and equivalent statement changes for MSE 250
- (ii) Prerequisite change for MSE 251

b. Faculty of Environment

1. School of Environmental Science

- (i) Units change for EVSC 334

2. School of Resource and Environmental Management

- (i) Units change for REM 334
- (ii) WQB designations for:
 - x REM 207 (BSoc)
 - x REM 211 (BSci)
 - x REM 225 (Q)

P. Kingsbury provided an overview and rationale regarding WQB designations. He explained that he consulted K. Nordgren and K. Whittle before compiling documents for SCUS' approval. The Chair and Vice Chair reminded everyone that there is a moratorium on new WQB designations, with exceptions reviewed on a case by case basis. A question was raised regarding the definition of an informal moratorium. The Chair will bring this question forward to the next SCUS meeting for further discussion.

c. Faculty of Health Sciences

- (i) Course number, description, prerequisite and equivalent statement changes to HSCI 304
- (ii) Title change for HSCI 310
- (iii) Deletion of HSCI 329, 430, and 479
- (iv) Prerequisite change for HSCI 483

d. Faculty of Science

1. Department of Biological Sciences

- (i) Prerequisite change for BISC 305, 366, 445 and 455
- (ii) Description and prerequisite change for BISC 405

3. Department of Physics

- (i) Title, description and prerequisite changes for PHYS 385 (Fall 2021) and PHYS 415 (Fall 2021)

PROGRAM CHANGES

c. Faculty of Environment (SCUS 2050)

1. Department of Geography

Motion 7

It was moved by P Kingsbury and seconded by C. Murray

“that SCUS approve under delegated authority and send to Senate for information the upper division requirement changes to the Physical Geography Major Honours program effective Spring 2021.”

CARRIED

d. Faculty of Health Sciences (SCUS 201)

Motion 8

It was moved by N. van Houten and seconded by P. Paquier

“that SCUS approve under delegated authority and send to Senate for information the changes to internal transfer and the upper and lower division requirements for the:

- x Health Sciences Major
- x Health Sciences Honours
- x Philosophy and Health Sciences Joint Major
- x Health Sciences Minor programs effective Spring 2021.”

CARRIED

e. Faculty of Science (SCUS 2052)

1. Department of Biological Sciences

Motion 9

It was moved by D. Hik and seconded by A. Parmar

“that SCUS approve under delegated authority and send to Senate for information the:

- x Upper and lower division requirement changes to the Biological Sciences Major and Honours program
- x Program requirement changes to the Biological Sciences Minor program
- x Lower division requirement changes to the Environmental Toxicology Minor program

CARRIED

5. OTHER BUSINESS

The following course changes, effective Fall 2020, were approved by delegated authority.

a. Faculty of Science (SCUS 203)

1. Department of Chemistry (Fall 2020)

- (i) Description change for CHEM 120
- (ii) Equivalent statement change for CHEM 121
- (iii) Title and equivalent statement change for CHEM 215
- (iv) Title and equivalent statement change for CHEM 281

2. Department of Chemistry (Fall 2020)

(i) New STT Course Proposals (for information)

- x CHEM 1251, General Chemistry Laboratory 1
- x CHEM 2102, Introduction to Analytical Chemistry
- x CHEM 2162, Introduction to Analytical Chemistry Laboratory
- x CHEM 2803, Organic Chemistry 1
- x CHEM 2851, Organic Chemistry laboratory 1

D. Hik spoke to these agenda items and provided an overview of the course modifications and new course proposals for the Department of Chemistry. He explained the change to the lower level combined lecture/laboratory courses into separate lecture and laboratory courses due to scheduling restraints caused by COVID-19. Courses CHEM 120, 121, 215 and 281 were modified into the following new Special Temporary Topics courses will be created, CHEM 125 (Lab), CHEM 210 (L), CHEM 216 (Lab), CHEM 280 (Lect), CHEM 285 (Lab).

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6. OPEN DISCUSSION

a. Course Delivery in the Fall and other items

The Chair spoke to this agenda item regarding course delivery in the upcoming 2020 term and noted that a decision regarding the spring 2021 term is pending direction from Government of BC. He added that there may be elements of remote delivery that become permanent due to innovations in teaching developed over the past few months.

Discussion ensued with focus on the importance to students regarding synchronous courses vs asynchronous course delivery. The Chair added that the process by which equipment can be used within a course will be guided by safety plans developed within the faculty. Faculty will need to make a decision for the summer 2020 term by June 15. It is anticipated that some instructors may decide on synchronous delivery initially, but may turn to asynchronous.

S. Birnie recommended that as a rule of thumb, if instructors are unsure, they should initially go with synchronous so that students will be informed in their enrollment decisions in advance of the fall 2020 term drop deadline. He suggested to inform students via the course outline and other places if there is a chance that the course may become asynchronous.

Student members noted that synchronous delivery is difficult for many international students in other time zones. They requested that synchronous courses be recorded for students who may not be able to attend at the scheduled local time.

Discussion continued regarding withdrawal deadlines for summer and future terms. The withdrawal deadline for summer sessions were moved and we should expect the same for all the fall. Perhaps Spring.

S. Birnie noted that he will prepare documents for discussion for the next SCUS meeting regarding withdrawal deadlines. He added that there is concern regarding academic standing for the fall term because a student's first term is a reflection of their transition to university, and for student's on academic probation. This may have an impact on retaining students and reaching enrollment targets. He further added that we need to enhance student support and retention programs, and that SCUS needs to explore temporary leniency or forgiveness plans.

The Chair noted that future SCUS agendas should include the following items for further discussion:

- x Enhancing student support and retention
- x Final Exam Policy
- x Definition of "informal moratorium"
- x Use of "Introduction" in upper division course titles
- x Standard calendar language regarding accelerated admission to a master's degree program
- x SCUS processes regarding department name changes and related courses

The Chair thanked everyone for their hard work and commitment during this pandemic with the many changes involved ensuring our students receive a quality student experience. He thanked the student representatives in attendance, Jennifer Chou and Abhishek Parmar, for their diligence and commitment to SCUS as representatives of the student body.