



College of Engineering
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

ACADEMIC PLANNING COUNCIL MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2024
1:30 PM – 3:00 PM
ROOM 3609 EH

Present: Jim Luedtke, Yuan Ping, Lee DeBaillie, Krishnan Suresh, Benedikt Geiger, Kathy Prem, Jennifer Sheridan, Steve Loheide, Victor Zavala, Ian Robertson, David Noyce, Sara Hagen

Excused: Wally Block, Nader Behdad, Mark Malkin

Approval of the minutes from 18 September 2024 (*J. Luedtke*)
<https://uwmadison.app.box.com/file/1670713216417> - approved as written

Item added to agenda: initial discussion of CoE policy on AI meeting assistants (see below)

ABET Recap (*Ian Robertson*)

- The ABET visit was October 13-15. A final decision on accreditation of each program will be made by August 2025. Program evaluators noted five instances of the same concern in five programs and two weaknesses in one program. These classifications may change during the rest of the process. For the programs with a concern or weakness, next steps are to submit any materials during the 30-day due process period and the supplemental materials period.
- Thank you to all who contributed to making this happen

Wisconsin Sloan Center for Systemic Change (*V. Zavala*)

- The Sloan Foundation has awarded UW-Madison a 2-year seed grant of \$250,000 to develop a Sloan Center for Systemic Change. UW-Madison will pursue the full grant of \$1.4M for implementation and PhD scholarships. Sloan has a long history of implementing programs that focus on student well-being and mentoring, maximizing completion rates.
- Benefits realized so far include participation in the Equity in Graduate Education consortium, which provides a framework to share materials. Success of grad students is influenced by academic preparation, sense of self-efficacy, and sense of community and belonging. 3 of 7 goals are complete for planning grant: workshops, hire program manager, participate in Sloan EGE community
- Next steps: study on mentoring efficacy, community of practice, tiered implementation for faculty, staff, and administrators; development of multi-level peer community structure for mentoring.
- Building on the GERS model and CGRS, the center will foster collaborative engagement within and across departments and colleges

College of Engineering

Office of the Dean 2610 Engineering Hall 1415 Engineering Drive Madison, WI 53706

- ME, ECE, CBE, and MS&E are participating so far – would expand to all departments in next phase

Program review - Undergraduate Certificate in Technical Communication (**J. Luedtke**)

<https://uwmadison.app.box.com/file/1645917350278?s=j377daryuz34bcz0rmi34h31stnawo38>

- A decision regarding this review was tabled at the previous meeting. Discussion resumed.
- The Technical Communication courses, especially INTEREGR 397, were lauded as a strength of our programs during the ABET exit meeting. Students benefit greatly from the expertise of the Technical Communications staff. Communication skills are critical, and it is helpful for students to have a method to demonstrate their competence in this area. However, this certificate in Technical Communication is not currently serving many students. Alternatives could include development of a new certificate with a different focus and/or development of communications courses that serve a broader audience (such as a course that fulfills Communications A).
- A motion was made to approve the program review. The motion passed 7-0-0.
- A motion was made to recommend to the Dean that the Undergraduate Certificate in Technical Communication be suspended and discontinued. The motion passed 6-1-0.

Program Review processes (**S. Hagen**)

- Reminder: as committee members receive your charge letters, thank you for responding promptly to scheduling inquiries for kickoff meetings

Proposed policy on Credit by Portfolio Review - (**S. Hagen**)

<https://uwmadison.app.box.com/file/1656243787026>

- There were no objections to the proposed policy.

Named options policy - (**S. Hagen**)

<https://uwmadison.app.box.com/s/ie9auotn38u5m8i3md54z76mj7yggoq5>

- We have a concern regarding the definition of "core" curriculum and plan to object at the October 17 UAPC meeting

FYI: We received and did not object to the NOI for the MS in Quantum Computing from the department of Physics

FYI: We received and did not object to an NOI for Software Engineering BS at UW-Green Bay

FYI: Plant Science and Technology major in CALS – no objection was raised – no engineering courses are involved

Proposed College-level AI meeting assistant policy

<https://uwmadison.app.box.com/file/1674592719878>

Please review both the University policy and the College's draft policy and distribute as needed within your department to collect any feedback for the November 20 meeting.

College of Engineering

Office of the Dean 2610 Engineering Hall 1415 Engineering Drive Madison, WI 53706

Announcements:

- APCRC minutes and agendas are posted at <https://apcrc.engr.wisc.edu/>.
- Academic Planning deadlines for 2024-25 ([link](#))
Summer course changes due October 21, New summer courses due November 18

Adjourned 2:49 pm