

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Minutes

3:05 – 4:30 p.m. Room: HOV 105

Date: March 25, 2026

Members (15 voting (8 quorum)—10 present, 5 absent):

Nicole Anderson
Fuxia Cheng
Amy Hurd (executive secretary)
Kathryn Jasper
Joshua Newport

Philip Pulley
Matt Saner
Liz Sattler
Robbie Shorter
Lisa Tranel

Absent:

Elke Altenburger
Kristin Carlson
Niharika Dayyala
Lexi Smith
Xiaoying Zhao

Attendees:

none

1. **Convene:** 3:08 pm by Newport
2. **Introduction of members/attendees:**
3. **Minutes: 3-18-2026 meeting.** No corrections; accepted as distributed.
4. **Action Items:**
 - a. 8-year Review of IDS Minors:

Two program reviews were completed: Cognitive Sciences and Peace Studies. A summary will be provided to the departments including recommendations.

Cognitive Sciences:

The Cognitive Science Minor is an interdisciplinary program directed and advised solely by Dr. Lana Kühle (Philosophy). The minor is designed to provide students with an integrated understanding of cognition through coursework drawn from multiple disciplines across campus. Students select one of four emphases and work with the director to develop an individualized plan of study outside their major.

The program relies heavily on courses offered by other departments, with IDS 265 (Introduction to Cognitive Science) as the only required core course. All advising, promotion, oversight, and program maintenance responsibilities currently rest with the director.

The UCC made several recommendations that will be summarized and submitted to Dr. Kuhle.

Peace Studies:

The Peace and Conflict Resolution Studies (PCRS) minor is a long standing interdisciplinary program, originating as a certificate program in 1990 and offering a minor since 1997. The

program is housed in the College of Arts and Sciences and draws coursework from a broad range of departments across campus. Oversight and leadership are provided by a single Program Director, Dr. Noha Shawki (Politics and Government), with instructional support from faculty across the University.

The minor requires 21 credit hours, including one core course (IDS 111) and electives organized into four concentration areas: Social Justice; Violence Prevention and Conflict Resolution; Environmental Justice; and Globalization. The program emphasizes civic engagement, interdisciplinary learning, and applied experiences that align with the University's Excellence by Design strategic priorities.

The UCC made several recommendations that will be summarized and submitted to Dr. Shawki.

5. Liaison Reports:

a. Council on General Education (Shorter)

CGE has met but is reviewing courses only and no programs.

b. Council for Teacher Education (Hurd)

CTE approved several courses but nothing that will impact UCC.

6. Miscellaneous:

7. Adjournment: Cheng at 4:14 pm. Anderson seconded.

Upcoming Meetings/Proposal Reviews:

4-1-2026 meeting is cancelled; no review.