



**Academic Council
Undergraduate Studies Committee**

November 19, 2024

9:00 am – 11:00 am

Via Google Meet

Join: <https://meet.google.com/hwg-apiz-jvs>

Or dial: (CA) +1 647-735-5882 PIN: 213 892 290#

Undergraduate Studies Committee Agenda and Materials

AGENDA

- | | |
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| 1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement | M. Bluechardt |
| 2. Approval of Agenda (M) | M. Bluechardt |
| 3. Minutes of the Committee Meeting of October 15, 2024* (M) | M. Bluechardt |
| 4. Business Arising from the Minutes | M. Bluechardt |
| 5. Chair's Remarks | M. Bluechardt |
| 6. Minor Program Adjustments (Approval) | |
| 6.1 Faculty of Social Science and Humanities:
Bachelor of Arts - Liberal Studies - Science, Technology and Society Specialization* (M) | K. Clow |
| 6.2 Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities:
Diploma in Public Policy* (M) | K. Clow |
| 7. Major Program Modifications (Recommendation) | |
| 7.1 Faculty of Health Sciences:
Health Studies Minor* (M) | J. McCabe |
| 8. For Information | |
| 8.1 Minor Curricular Changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• New Course: HLSC 3460U• Course Change: COMM 2620U, COMM 4140U, HLSC 3421U, HLSC 3805U, KINE 3200U,
NUCL 4640U, NUCL 4680U, NUCL 4700U, NURS 3401U, NURS 3403U, PSYC 3500U | |
| 9. Volunteer for December Land Acknowledgement | |
| 10. Termination | |

Kirstie Ayotte, Assistant University Secretary

**ACADEMIC COUNCIL
UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE (USC)**

**Minutes of the Public Session of the October 15, 2024 Meeting
via Videoconference
9:02 a.m. – 9:34 a.m.**

Meeting Materials:
[USC – October 15, 2024 Agenda and Materials](#)

Present: Mary Bluechardt (Chair), Wendy Barber, K. Clow, Ana Duff, Janet McCabe, Mehdi Hossein Nejad, S. Nokleby, Darryl Papke, Jemma Tam, Adam Wingate,

Regrets: Randy Fortier, Tega Ubor

Staff and Guests: Kirstie Ayotte (secretary), Jessica Boswell, Nicola Crow, Michelle Heslip, Andrea Kassaris, Kimberley McCartney, Holly McPherson, P. Stoett

Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:02 am and A. Duff provided the Land Acknowledgement.

1. Approval of Agenda

Upon a motion duly made by A. Duff, and seconded by K. Clow, the Undergraduate Studies Committee approved the Agenda, as presented.

2. Minutes of the Committee Meeting of September 17, 2024

Upon a motion duly made by J. McCabe and seconded by W. Barber, the Undergraduate Studies Committee approved the September 17, 2024 Minutes, as presented.

Two abstentions noted.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

None noted

4. Chair's Remarks

The Chair began by hoping everyone had a good Thanksgiving long weekend and reflected on a successful start to the Fall semester, including positive feedback from orientation. She thanked volunteers and faculty for their efforts and noted the emergence of new program proposals, which are the key to the Institution's growth.

5. New Program Proposal

5.1 Faculty of Social Science and Humanities; BA – Sociology, Technology and Innovation

Motion:

Upon a Motion duly made by K. Clow and seconded by A. Duff, USC hereby recommends to Academic Council the approval of the Bachelor of Arts – Sociology, Technology and Innovation and the subsequent recommendation of the program to the Board.

It was clarified that the proposal had not been previously presented to the Undergraduate Studies Committee but was discussed at the Faculty of Social Science and Humanities Faculty Council. During that meeting, and at the suggestion of the Provost, it was decided to rename the program to highlight its complexity and its focus on technology and innovation, aligning with Ontario Tech's priorities.

K. Clow noted that the change aims to highlight innovative aspects, critical thinking and technology components of the sociology program, which were not previously showcased, especially in its applied sociology specialization.

Regarding concerns about the Fall 2025 start date, P. Stoett stated that full Ministry approval and funding are unlikely by then, but a soft launch may allow current students to transition into the program. A full launch, with appropriate advertising, is more likely for 2026.

P. Stoett acknowledged that while the program doesn't currently include access to technology and innovation courses outside the Faculty of Social Science and Humanities (FSSH), students could explore electives from other faculties.

In response to a concern raised regarding the creation of new programs without upfront investment, P. Stoett explained that the Criminology program is currently underutilized due to a decline in student numbers. Many professors in the program have sociology degrees, allowing the faculty to develop the new sociology program quickly without needing additional expertise.

While investment is important for long-term growth, he believes the current staff is well-equipped to handle the new program and doesn't foresee significant staffing concerns unless the program becomes more popular than expected.

6. For Information

6.1 Revisions to the 2024-2025 Undergraduate Academic Schedule

In addition to the revisions presented, several Committee members requested a review of the Orientation schedule, which coincides with the Labour Day long weekend, placing a strain on employees and their families and potentially deterring attendees. The Chair agreed to present these concerns to the Provost for consideration. A. Wingate noted that schedules are currently planned in draft form through 2028, based on a rollover from the previous year, and any

changes would need careful consideration to ensure the University maintains the appropriate number of instructional days.

In response to concerns about exam scheduling conflicts with major events, A. Wingate acknowledged the issue, noting that large events are typically planned in advance, which allows for proper notification of their dates. Some conflicts may arise unexpectedly, he expressed a willingness to collaborate and provide advance notice for significant events to help avoid scheduling problems. Additionally, he mentioned that the scheduling team has met to discuss booking and confirming midterm schedules earlier than in previous years.

6.2 2024-2025 Draft USC Work Plan

6.3 Minor Curricular Change

[KINE 1030U](#)

10. Volunteer for November Land Acknowledgement

R. Fortier volunteered to provide the November meeting's Land Acknowledgement

11. Termination

Upon a motion duly made by S. Nokleby, the October 15, 2024 USC meeting adjourned at 9:34 a.m.

Kirstie Ayotte, Assistant University Secretary

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED:

Recommendation
Decision
Discussion/Direction
Information

DATE: 19 November 2024

FROM: Faculty of Social Science and Humanities

SUBJECT: Minor Program Adjustment – Bachelor of Arts - Liberal Studies -
Science, Technology and Society Specialization

COMMITTEE MANDATE:

In accordance with Section 1. b) of the Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC) Terms of Reference, USC has the responsibility “to approve minor program adjustments and report them to Academic Council for information.”

MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION:

That USC hereby approves the Minor Program Adjustment to the Bachelor of Arts – Liberal Studies - Science, Technology and Society specialization updating the Environmental Studies course requirement.

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:

The Faculty is proposing to replace the required course, ENVS 2010U with ENVS 1000U for the STS Specialization. ENVS 2010U has a number of requirements that Liberal Studies students will not be able to meet. ENVS 1000U is open to all students and will allow Liberal Studies students to include this course to develop breadth and a foundation in Environmental Studies.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:

No additional resources are required

TRANSITION PLAN:

All current and new students will be able to take ENVS 1000U as credit towards the specialization. Changes will be communicated to all students by the Program Director and Academic Advising.

CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:

- Curriculum Committee: 10 October 2024
- Faculty Council: 30 October 2024
- ✓ Undergraduate Studies Committee (for approval): 19 November 2024
- ✓ Academic Council (for information): 28 January 2025

This change was initiated by the Academic Planning Specialist in the Faculty of Science indicating that it was a better option for students to take ENVS 1000U over ENVS 2010U as most students did not meet the pre-requisites.

NEXT STEPS:

Pending the approval of USC, this change will be presented for information to Academic Council and included in the 2025-2026 Academic Calendar.

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:

- [Minor Program Adjustment Proposal](#)

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED:

Recommendation
Decision
Discussion/Direction
Information

DATE: 19 November 2024

FROM: Faculty of Social Science and Humanities

SUBJECT: Minor Program Adjustment – Diploma in Public Policy

COMMITTEE MANDATE:

In accordance with Section 1. b) of the Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC) Terms of Reference, USC has the responsibility “to approve minor program adjustments and report them to Academic Council for information.”

MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION:

That USC hereby approves the Minor Program Adjustment to the Diploma – Public Policy to add an additional course to elective options.

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:

The Faculty is proposing to add an additional existing POSC course (POSC 3750U - American Politics and Political Culture) as an approved elective in the Diploma in Public Policy Group B.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:

No additional resources are required

TRANSITION PLAN:

The course will be available to new and continuing students effective for Fall 2025. Academic Advising is aware of the change to be communicated to interested students.

CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:

- ✓ Curriculum Committee: 10 October 2024
- ✓ Faculty Council: 30 October 2024
- Undergraduate Studies Committee (for approval): 19 November 2024
- Academic Council (for information): 28 January 2025

NEXT STEPS:

Pending the approval of USC, this change will be presented for information to Academic Council and included in the 2025-2026 Academic Calendar.

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:

- [Minor Program Adjustment Proposal](#)

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED:

- Recommendation**
Decision
Discussion/Direction
Information

DATE: 19 November 2024

FROM: Faculty of Health Sciences

SUBJECT: Major Program Modification – Health Studies Minor

COMMITTEE MANDATE:

In accordance with the Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC) Terms of Reference, USC has the responsibility “to examine proposals for new undergraduate degree programs and major changes to existing programs and to recommend their approval, as appropriate, to the Academic Council”.

MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION:

That USC hereby recommends to Academic Council the approval of the Major Program Modification to add a minor in Health Studies.

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:

The Faculty is proposing to create a new minor in Health Studies for students in the Faculty of Social Science and Humanities. The existing programs in FSSH do not provide opportunities for students to learn about health and health care. A health studies minor would enhance the ability for FSSH graduates to work effectively in roles that apply both health and the law to resolve conflict and promote well-being among clients.

Faculty from both FHS and FSSH have worked together to create the Minor in Health Studies to complement the Minor in Legal Studies already available. Students in FSSH have stated that they see value in having access to courses in FHS that focus on health care and health systems but not health sciences. FHS students currently do not have easy access for obtaining relevant minors from other faculties and they would welcome this opportunity. Some students have expressed an interest in pursuing health law career opportunities.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:

No additional human or physical resources required.

TRANSITION PLAN:

As of Fall 2025, the Health studies minor will be available to FSSH students, and FHS students will have easier access to enrolling in the existing legal studies minor in FSSH.

The Faculty of Health Sciences will provide a description of the Minor in Health Studies on their web page and the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities will promote this new minor to their students.

CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:

- ✓ FHS Curriculum Committee: 16 May 2024
- ✓ Faculty Council: 5 June 2024
- Undergraduate Studies Committee (Recommendation): 19 November 2024
- Academic Council (Approval): 28 January 2024

NEXT STEPS:

- Pending the recommendation of USC, this change will be presented to Academic Council for approval. If approved, it will be included in the 2024-2025 Academic Calendar.

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:

- [Major Program Modification Proposal](#)