

**Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee – Saint Louis University  
UAAC meeting minutes 4/7/22 and UAAC Sub Meeting 4/14/22**

**Attendance UAAC:**

**Those in attendance:** Rob Wood, Debbie Pike, Elizabeth Gockel-Blessing, Sabrina Tyuse, Ellen Crowell, Gary Barker, Gina Merys, Jesse Helton, Laura McLaughlin, Marissa Cope, Merlene Gilb, Michael Elliott, Paige Allen, Peggy Dotson, Shawn Steadman, Tyler DeShon, Amy Harkins

**Excused:**

Lori Kupsky, Gary Bledsoe, Jennifer Rust

**Attendance UAAC Sub:**

Rob Wood, Gary Bledsoe, Jay Haugen, Ellen Crowell, Debbie Pike, Gary Barker, Jesse Helton, Laura McLaughlin, Lori Kupsky, Merlene Gilb, Sabrina Tyuse, William Steadman, Elizabeth Gockel-Blessing, Jennifer Rust

Associate Provost Rob Wood, PhD, called to order the UAAC meeting at 9:05 am.

**Reports/Proposal/Policies from Committee Members:**

**Doisy College – Name Change: Investigative and Medical Sciences to Medical Sciences, Amy Harkins, PhD (1 attachment):**

The Investigative and Medical Sciences (IMS) Program is requesting a program name change to Medical Sciences. This is due to a number of reasons. There are no other academic programs to our knowledge in the US named Investigative and Medical Sciences. It is confusing and difficult for the 90% of our graduating students to interview at medical and physician assistant schools in the country. The students spend time describing the degree program rather than time answering interview questions. Further, the currently named Investigative and Medical Sciences Program is frequently confused with SLU's Forensics Science major and degree, as well as when external groups contact us requesting information on investigative medical forensic sciences, especially for news statements and professional witnesses for court cases.

Our current IMS degree and its curriculum is well in line with other academic programs in the country named Medical Sciences. These include undergraduate Bachelor degree programs at the University of Cincinnati, University of Idaho, Washington State University, and UT Health at San Antonio. Medical Sciences is an easily understood name of an undergraduate degree, and by changing our current IMS degree name to Medical Sciences, it would eliminate confusion with Forensics Science and enable professional schools to more easily understand the BS degree and the curriculum that our students have accomplished.

The faculty and students in the IMS Program have been queried. All faculty are in favor of the name change, and 87% of the students are in favor of a name change with the majority of the requested name change being to Medical Sciences.

Very little would require modification for this name change. There are no courses with the IMS prefix. The Program is entirely within the Department of Clinical Health Sciences with marketing or branding: no specific name plates, wall signage, or replacement of any letterhead/stationary. The expense involves the time to revise the IMS pages of the catalog and ensure appropriate messaging to all cohorts and with appropriate timing. One important aspect though to this name change is that we will not abbreviate the Medical Sciences in any of our communications or descriptions, as a BS in MS is confusing. We will always spell the name out, as a BS in Medical Sciences.

The entirety of the degree resides on the Catalog and with the degree itself through the Registrar's Office for academic conferral of degrees. Depending on timing, this would be effective for incoming new freshman only, Fall 2022, or if not able to be effective for incoming Fall 2022, it would be pushed to incoming Fall 2023 students. All other students who are currently in the IMS Program will graduate from the IMS Program with a BS in IMS. Only those new incoming students who will graduate in May 2026 (or 2027 if for incoming Fall 2023) would be affected by the name change on their BS degrees. For whichever cohort, all new incoming students would be messaged for this name change as soon as it is effective. Messaging would be sent via OCHS and the Department through the Dean's Office to all alumni of the Program and current students.

- *At the 4-14-22 UAAC Sub-Committee meeting, the committee unanimously agreed for Doisy College to change Investigative and Medical Sciences to Medical Sciences. The program change report did not require a vote by the committee. There is no other approval process needed.*



FOR UAAC-DCEC  
21.22-39 IMS TO MS |

**Arts & Sciences – BA Environmental Studies Madrid Gary Barker, PhD (1 attachment):**

SLU-Madrid currently offers the first two years of the Ba in Environmental Studies. The plan is to complete the coursework in its entirety in Madrid. The full major can be offered through 1) opening two additional EAS courses and one course in humanities, 2) developing capstone projects and internship opportunities, and 3) hiring one full-time faculty to launch the program for teaching, advising, developing internship opportunities and capstone projects; as enrollment grows, a second full-time faculty member is needed. Madrid will coordinate all curricula requirements and the assessment of student learning outcomes with the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences in St. Louis, Missouri.

The environment is a global issue and the study of the environment from an international perspective is key to increase the expertise, awareness, and knowledge of the environmental issues that the world is facing in the 21st century. However, many regional environmental and sustainable development issues are local. For instance, official governmental responses to environmental issues, not only on the two sides of the Atlantic, have been very different in terms of regulation and laws. But there is also a common destiny binding the EU and the Mediterranean countries in terms of environmental impacts which international perspective. Students will have the advantage of being able to see environmental issues in both a local and global context, gaining a greater understanding of the solutions needs to address these problems.

Moreover, this interdisciplinary program constitutes an excellent option for new students to graduate in Madrid and can also be a valuable opportunity for other students to combine it with other majors, such as international politics, international business, and communication. Those students will gain a better understanding of the environmental issues and will also be able to operate from their different disciplines. Furthermore, these double majors will not only help students become more eligible for scholarships towards graduate studies, but also ensure they are qualified for jobs which require multi-disciplinary preparation. For instance, the environment has become a major topic in international relations because environmental problems are typically of a cross-border nature and need to be addressed via international cooperation.

In Fall 2015, Fall 2016 and Fall 2017 of the 2825 students who either applied to begin their studies, or to transfer to continue their studies at SLU-Madrid, a good number of them expressed interest in studying either Environmental Studies or Environmental Science. The majority of students who expressed an interest did not start their career at SLU-Madrid because the necessity of spending the final two years in St. Louis to

complete the major was not appealing to them. Offering an Environmental Studies major would thus attract those students that ultimately decided to pursue their careers at other universities and will also enable SLU-Madrid to access a larger number of permanent and visiting students per year. Many US universities have shown a strong interest in SLU-Madrid's courses in environmental science.

- *At the 4-14-22 UAAC Sub-Committee meeting, the committee unanimously approved the New Major: BA Environmental Studies. At the time of this writing, the new major has been sent to the Provost office and awaiting his signature. When the signature has been received, there will be no further approval process needed.*



Madrid--Env  
Studies.pdf

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**On-going items of discussions regarding temporary withdrawal policy:**

The committee discussed if there is a desire for the UAAC/GAAC committees to extend the withdrawal permanently? The committee discussed considering the students who have half-term and the winter students.

The committee realizes there are classes that are structured, there are large group activities at the end of the semester and it could become problematic for other classmates if those students decided to use the withdrawal, this could leave other classmates hanging.

Continued discussion at the UAAC committee meeting on this topic.

**New Business to be discussed at the next meeting:**

Length of Instructor Permission Needed – Dr. Rob Wood

Policy: Credit by Certification – Jay Haugen: A request to add: American Society of Clinical Pathology

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:** April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022, UAAC-subcommittee meeting dated April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

**Announcements:** Next UAAC Meeting will be on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022.