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Action-Date: UWUCC 9/27/94 Appr.
Senate 11/1/94

CURRICULUM PROPOSAL COVER SHEET
University-Wide Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

I. CONTACT

Contact Person Robert Sechrist Phone 7653 or 2250
Department Geography & Regional Planning

II. PROPOSAL TYPE (Check All Appropriate Lines)

COURSE Intro to GIS
Suggested 20 character title
 New Course* _____
Course Number and Full Title
 Course Revision _____
Course Number and Full Title
 Liberal Studies Approval + _____
for new or existing course Course Number and Full Title
 Course Deletion _____
Course Number and Full Title
 Number and/or Title Change GE 416 Computer-Assisted Cartography
Old Number and/or Full Old Title

GE 316 Introduction to Geographic Information
New Number and/or Full New Title **Systems**

Course or Catalog Description Change _____
Course Number and Full Title
PROGRAM: Major Minor Track
 New Program* _____
Program Name
 Program Revision* _____
Program Name
 Program Deletion* _____
Program Name
 Title Change _____
Old Program Name

New Program Name

III. Approvals (signatures and date)

Gail S. Sechrist 3/28/94 Sam Luer 3 28 94
Department Curriculum Committee Department Chair
[Signature] 5/30/94 [Signature] 5/30/94
College Curriculum Committee College Dean

+ Director of Liberal Studies (where applicable) *Provost (where applicable)

Part II. Description of Curriculum Change

It is our desire to modify the title, course number, and catalog description of GE416 Computer-Assisted Cartography.

1. Complete catalog description with new number, title, number of credits, prerequisites, and appropriately written course description.

New Description

GE316 Introduction to Geographic Information Systems 3c-01-3sh

Prerequisites: GE313, or equivalent, or permission of instructor

Automated methods for creating, maintaining, and analyzing spatial data are presented. Topics include 1) specialized GIS hardware and software, 2) vector vs. raster vs. object oriented spatial data structures, 3) creation and manipulation of geographic data files, 4) data base design and management concepts, 5) spatial analysis, and 6) cartographic design.

Old Description (for comparison)

GE416 Computer-Assisted Cartography 3c-01-3sh

Prerequisites: GE313, or equivalent, or permission of instructor

This course introduces automated cartographic production techniques. Topics include the use of cartographic hardware and software, the distinction between vector and raster representations, data bases, the cartographer-machine interface, and designing computer-generated maps.

2. A listing of proposed changes giving the old title and number and the new title and number.

| Old | New |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| GE416 Computer-Assisted Cartography | GE316 Introduction to Geographic Information Systems |
| Catalog Description (above) | Catalog Description (above) |

3. Justification/Rationale for the changes.

Title Change Justification/Rationale

The course name change brings our course into the currently accepted naming pattern. In 1987, when this course was first approved the discipline had not yet settled on the naming of the emerging technology that has become Geographic Information Systems. With the creation of the National Center for Geographic Information Analysis (NCGIA) by the National Science Foundation in 1991, the naming became standardized. The new name reflects what has become a standardized course name and curricular content in many institutions (at the recommendation of the NCGIA who developed model syllabi and suggested content). Actually, the course content has, since its inception, been very similar to that recommended by the NCGIA.

Course Description Justification/Rationale

We request only minor modification of the course description. Changes to the description are primarily organizational and represent an attempt to make the description more readable. The revised course description also indicates how the course had developed since its inception.

Course Number Justification/Rational

When the course was originally developed, the content was considered high technology that was digestible only by our seniors. With the passage of time and the greater use of computers by students we feel that we should present the material earlier in the program. GIS has shifted from high technology to a necessary integrative skill. By lowering the course number we anticipate students will take it earlier in their career and then use the skills learned in other courses.

Part III. Letters of Support

We feel that no supporting documents are necessary.