



**UCC Meeting**  
**Thursday, January 16, 2025**  
**2:00-5:00 p.m.**  
In Person, ALC 4100

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CL10 Dashboard: <https://next.bulletin.vcu.edu/>

Select Course management button to access course proposals

Select Program management button to access program proposals

UCC pages pending approval: Select Workflow tab then select Undergraduate Curriculum

Committee Chair in Role field.

**Present:**

Voting Members: Sang Ahn, Caroline Budwell, Laurie Cathers, Mariah Crilley, Katie Crump, Kimberly, Davis, Yonella Demars, James Gahagan, Rachel Hill, Jared Johnson, Faye Prichard, Edna Renee Macbeth, Meera Mehtaji, Stephanie Odera, Elena Olson, Kristin Reed, Sara Reed, Oliver Speck, Steph Venetti

Non voting committee members: Karen Cary, Madeline Goldman, Bernard Hamm, Barbara Judy, Sandy Morgan

Academic Affairs Representation: Rob DiRenzo, Katrice Hawthorne, Holly Jackson, Jaime Williams, Carolina Yaber, Lisa Yamin,

Guests: Michael Cabral, Alen Docef, Azim Eskandarian, Catherine Ingrassia, Robert Klenke, Marcus Messner, Joe Reiner, Carol Scotese, Gary Tepper, James Wiznerowicz ,

**Absent:** Robert Anderson, Amy Burlar, Rob DiRenzo, Filipe Leitao, Patrick Lowery, Stephanie Thulin,, Carolina Yaber

**Agenda**

**I Call to Order**

**II Approval of Minutes**

[December Minutes](#)

**III Old Business**

- Academic Affairs (SVPAA): The provost is not looking to overturn any UUCC vote. He is asking that there be a deeper consideration between College of Engineering (COE) and College of Humanities and Sciences (CHS) courses. We weren't at our best at the Dec UUCC meeting. Need better preparation for the UUCC meeting. Wants to create a pattern of more strategic consideration of UUCC courses and programs.
  - Want to move from scattered approval to better efficiency and academic planning.
  - Accomplishments
    - First MOU for UUCC Chair includes compensation
    - Reinstated administrative actions committee to streamline approvals
    - More administrative support for UUCC
    - Dec deadline not strictly enforced
    - Electronic May vote of AI Minor
    - Gen Ed approvals go to UUCC
    - Seamless transition of bulletin editor
    - Upgraded to CL10 and upgraded CIM form
  - Academic Planning Framework
    - SCHEV proposals declared each October for better planning
    - Declare curricular action in October that may require further discussion like today
    - Digital badges and non credit options also being added for consideration
  - Curricular Duplication:
    - What does that look like?
    - Presentation from both ENGR and CHS
      - Fuller picture than December
    - Do we need a discussion on curricular duplication?
      - It was determined by UUCC members that we do
- Curricular Duplication discussion led by UUCC Chair
  - UUCC member: wanted chair of physics present
  - UUCC member: Also came with with mental health minor. Needs to be a larger conversation with respect to difference in disciplines
    - How to streamline and inform reviewers how to determine if a duplication
  - CHS: They have already looked at duplication at the college level before coming to UUCC.
  - UUCC Chair: When you do a review, you should be asking the contact from CIM these questions about
  - UUCC member: Live with duplication within ENGR. Tend to have a broader view of curriculum duplication because may have slightly different slant.

- UUCC Guest (AD Arts): A student cannot receive duplicative credit already identified in the bulletin.
- UUCC member: More consideration to be done with duplication. Should discuss if you don't want to receive credit for both courses. Should be on the CIM form that they are required to discuss.
- UUCC Member: How a course is titled or abbreviated can also be contentious and in the middle of firefight when getting to UUCC.
- UUCC Member: I know it (duplication) when I see it but don't know how to define it.
- UUCC Chair: Seems related to RCM. Will need direction as a result.
- Academic Affairs: program duplication from SCHEV is course content and learning outcomes is also a concern.

[COE Presentation](#) and [EGRE 201 Syllabus](#) by ECE Department

Questions:

Guest: Arts Associate Dean (AD): Is SPCH 321 also being removed? yes Not opposed but need to know for planning purposes. Courses being removed needs to be communicated to that department.

Guest COE AD: PHYS 208 topics comparison question to ECE curriculum. Other courses in major also cover PHYS 208 topics.

UUCC member: Not really replacing PHYS 208 because a different course. This is not curricular duplication because not recreating the content of PHYS 208.

Guest COE Dean: Mech ENGR courses are duplicated in PHYSICS. 50%. PHYS, MATH and ENGR are intertwined. Level of duplication but don't want to teach PHYS courses. These are changes they made 5 years ago that are materializing now. Makes it more flexible and attractive for the major. It isn't the RCM model because they would also be adding MATH courses.

UUCC Member: Are these different enough for them to have both courses count towards degree? They could take both for credit and would need for them PHYS minor.

UUCC Member: Does PHYS 208 count as a science elective?

COE: yes



UUC Member: Is it a true duplication if I knew topics were already covered? No. As a program director, she doesn't think it's a duplication.

UUC Member: Not new topics in EGRE 201 from PHYS 208. Eliminate redundancy by eliminating PHYS 208

UUC Member: What is the accreditation board perspective on not having PHYS 208? ABET wants you to define what you are doing and show how to meet the requirements. Continuous improvement process.

Guest: COE Dean: ECE covers these topics in other courses. MECH doesn't cover PHYS 208 so they do take PHYS 208. Part of the curriculum for other ENGR majors.

UUC Member: Very similar courses with different slants, business vs. science Computer Science vs IS. We see this elsewhere.

UUC Member: We have approved courses that have potential duplication. It would still be the case that this is eliminating PHYS from GE courses. Students benefit from this PHYS course being outside their discipline. Duplication not the only question on the table for consideration of this proposal

[CHS Presentation](#) by PHYS department. [College of Humanities and Sciences–Alternative Proposal for ECE duplication](#)

Questions:

Guest: COE Dean: They want to specify how ECE is taught at VCU. Just like PHYS. ECE department should be able to do that.

CHS: We disagree in the introductory level. We feel we are best positioned to teach the course. It is fine for ECE at the upper level to do so. Removing opportunity to learn fundamentals of physics

Academic Affairs: Are students struggling with these concepts in your class? Maybe they do need the fundamentals. CHS: Would be more successful in PHYS class because learning fundamentals



Guest COE AD: Conflating issue: EE students should take PHYS 208. That should be up to the student. Forcing a student to take PHYS 208 is a separate vote.

CHS: Would approve if didn't take PHYS 208 out of the curriculum.

COE: Need EGRE 201 because have fundamentals for those students. PHYS 208 is separate and we feel it is redundant when you look at the ECE curriculum. The approval of EGRE 201 is critical for ECE. We need that course. It is not a duplicate of PHYS 208

UUC Member: We are the Computer Science experts and apply to the curriculum in a different way. The same content can be taught by different departments with their own slant.

CHS: We were stymied by STATs for a course that we wanted to teach. ENGR has a different culture. CHS isn't like that.

Guest: CHS Dean: What is the difference between redundancy and duplication? What defines duplication?

UUC Member: What defines duplication? It is about money. We are going to start creating classes because of money. This will continue to happen. I don't know what to say in this case. Would you compare syllabi to see if they are duplicative?

CHS: The major contention is PHYS 208 is being removed from the curriculum. Who should teach PHYS?

Guest: COE Dean: Should art students take PHYS 208?

CHS: Based on accreditation conversations, we do have a say who teaches PHYS at this university.

UUC Member: Include something in CIM, when a class is removed from a program, so conversations can start earlier. Value in teaching theory broadly before teaching it applied. Losing well rounded college students. Faculty should have a conversation about applied and non applied programs so CHS teaches more broadly whereas ENGR is more applied.

UUC Member: Does ABET (accreditation body for ECE) require PHYS 208? No

UUC Member: What does you think of a plan that includes PHYS 208 with EGRE 201?



COE: It looks redundant. There are other more fundamental things they could take like a minor. We cover those topics in PHYS 208. It would be extra credits for the student.

UUC Member: Values both perspectives. Could there be some other way to combine courses?

CHS: PHYS 208 for ENGR and take out circuits

COE: We want to require EGRE 201 regardless. PHYS 208 is 5 extra credits.

UUC Member: EGRE 201 is not a duplicate of PHYS 208. But there are duplications in ECE topics and PHYS 208. Seems money related. How much damage will this cause PHYS?

Guest: Dean COE: Only affects ECE not other ENGR departments. We don't want to damage physics. They are also adding a MATH course.

COE: 75-80 majors per year

CHS: If this sets a precedent, this could be very damaging. This harms term faculty.

Guest: CHS Dean: Cannibalizing vs. collaborating; duplication vs. redundancy

UUC Member: We need to do due diligence when preparing as a committee. Is there an opportunity to have interdisciplinary collaboration? Removing credit hours is understandable. Try to make credit hours work.

COE: Eliminating 5 credits but adding MATH 310 but giving 3 credits to students to remain competitive. Not gaining anything from an RCM perspective. Retention will be better without PHYS 208.

UUC Member: Is retention more important than jobs?

Academic Affairs: They are connected.

UUC Member: Both of these presentations will be posted on Canvas page? yes

UUC Member: Business school has an Arts course. Could PHYS teach some of these courses in ENGR?



UUC Member Is this a concern of precedence and how does it impact interdisciplinary collaboration?

UUC Member: CHS often is a fundamental teacher of concepts. A lot of departments are teaching applications. How does this impact these types of fundamental teachers in the long term?

Meeting adjourned at 4pm.