

MINUTES OF
UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON CURRICULA

September 2, 2026

Present: M. Balong, N. Bird, C. Christopher, A. Cox, A. Gould, D. Heistad, C. Holcombe, R. Kidwell, M. Kline, A. Mann, J. Morgan, C. Nedrow, H. Porter Occeña, J. Ophus, J. Zhu

Absent: N. Lehman, D. Mollenkopf, A. Tabei

Guests: J. Bevard, A. Butler, D. Cornish, V. DeCoster, F. Fontana, C. Froyum, M. Graziano, W. Henninger, J. McNabb, A. Oberle, S. Peters, A. Schmiesing, M. Welford

The meeting was called to order by D. Heistad at 3:00 pm in the Presidential Room, Maucker Union

I. Welcome & Introductions

D. Heistad welcomed all present.

- Election of UCC Chair

N. Bird nominated D. Heistad as UCC Chair, H. Porter Occeña seconded. No objections from the committee.

Chair Heistad called for a vote for the UCC Chair. The vote passed unanimously.

II. Approval of Minutes – October 15, 2025

C. Holcombe moved to approve the October 15, 2025 minutes. N. Bird seconded. D. Heistad asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes. Hearing none.

III. Curriculum Review Procedures for Consent Agenda Items

C. Holcombe moved, H. Porter Occeña seconded to approve the consent agenda.

J. Zhu requested confirmation that the FAMLIFEEDUC-CERT, is only available to Family Services majors, and this is being reflected properly due to the departmental changes that have occurred. W. Henninger explained that it is documented correctly, and that the certificate is not available to Human Services majors due to the major being online only.

D. Heistad called for a vote on the consent agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Curriculum Proposals for the Department of Family, Aging & Counseling

C. Holcombe moved, H. Porter Occeña seconded to approve the Department of Family, Aging & Counseling proposals.

Agenda Items – Programs

- FAMLIFESPANDEV-BA: Family & Lifespan Development Major (edited)

D. Heistad explained that the Family Services degree is being merged with Gerontology to create a new major. This change is due to Workforce Alignment Review.

C. Holcombe mentioned hidden prerequisite issues were found during the pre-meeting, and they have already been fixed by the Office of the Registrar. D. Heistad added that consultations were suggested at the pre-meeting and they have now been sent out without report.

- FAMLIFESPANDEV-MINOR: Family & Lifespan Development Minor (edited)
- HUMANSERVICES-BA: Human Services Major (added)
- GERO-BA: Gerontology Major (deleted)

Agenda Items – Courses

- GERO 1000: Understanding Aging Through a Creative Lens (added)

J. Zhu questioned the use of “artist” in the description, as well as the availability of the course. W. Henninger clarified the description was meant to let students know they do not need artistic ability, but rather to learn about aging through art.

R. Kidwell suggested removing, “This course is open to everyone”, and starting the description with, “No pre-existing art skills are necessary”.

J. Zhu asked about the stipend mentioned in the description and whether the students are expected to pay the artist directly. D. Heistad recommended cleaning up the language in the course description. W. Henninger will work with R. Kidwell to make the necessary adjustments to the description language.

- GERO 3100: Aging, Policy & Practice (added)
- GERO 3104: Applied Mental Health in Adulthood (added)

M. Balong inquired regarding consultations on the courses. W. Henninger stated a consult was done with Psychology and they approved. M. Balong suggested reaching out to additional departments, as they might have students interested in the courses.

Chair Heistad called for a vote on the motion to approve the Department of Family, Aging & Counseling proposals. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Curriculum Review Procedures for Curriculum Proposals in the Department of History

C. Holcombe moved, H. Porter Occeña seconded, to approve the Department of History proposals.

Agenda Items – Programs

- ANTH-MINOR: Anthropology Minor (edited)
- ETHICSPHILREL-BA: Ethics, Philosophy, and Religion Major (edited)

D. Heistad explained that the ETHICSPHILREL-BA is being submitted due to a departmental merger. M. Balong inquired regarding the Religion BA. M. Graziano explained that the Religion BA will be ending after this program is approved. D. Heistad explained that this is typical so that students are not having a gap in entry.

- MUSEUM-MINOR: Museum Studies Minor (added)

D. Heistad asked if the Museum Studies Certificate will continue to be active. J. McNabb explained that this new minor will build onto the certificate. The thought was this minor would be helpful to give students a fuller picture of the industry. The department will pitch the minor to students that are interested in learning more after completing the certificate. This addition aligns with the Iowa Workforce Alignment.

R. Kidwell asked about “Category 1” which only holds one option. J. McNabb explained that additional courses were meant to be added but could not be executed this cycle. The department plans to add to the category in the future. R. Kidwell will remove the text regarding “choosing one”.

M. Balong asked regarding the credit range in the minor. R. Kidwell clarified that the range is due to the internship credits being a range. J. McNabb stated that the range provides transparency for students.

Agenda Items – Courses

- HIST 1020: Religions of the World (added)
- HIST 1050: The Art of Critical Thinking and Writing (added)

- HIST 1060: American Religious Diversity (added)
- PHIL 2310: From Mesopotamia to the Middle Ages: The Premodern West (added)
- PHIL 2320: The Modern West: Technology, Science, & Culture (added)
- PHIL 3990: Ethical Capitalism (added)
- RELS 1580: Ethics for Professional Life (added)
- RELS 2310: From Mesopotamia to the Middle Ages: The Premodern West (added)
- RELS 2320: The Modern West: Technology, Science, & Culture (added)
- RELS 3990: Ethical Capitalism (added)

D. Heistad explained that these new courses are due to cross-listing courses within the department due to the departmental merger. She mentioned that this could potentially be an issue when it comes to uploading syllabi and matching the course descriptions every time there is a minor change. J. McNabb explained that cross-listing these courses does benefit students, as well as utilizing faculty better.

J. McNabb confirmed all the proposed courses are currently being taught. This decision was made with the faculty to decide which courses could be cross taught.

Chair Heistad called for a vote on the motion to approve the Department of History proposals. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Curriculum Review Procedures for Curriculum Proposals in the Department of Kinesiology and Athletic Training

C. Holcombe moved, H. Porter Occeña seconded, to approve the Department of Kinesiology and Athletic Training proposals.

Agenda Items – Programs

- CORPFITNESS-CERT: Certificate in Corporate Fitness (deleted)
- KINES-BA: Kinesiology Major (edited)
- SPORTFITNESSADMIN-BA: Sport and Fitness Administration Dual Major (added)

D. Heistad asked for the motivation behind creating this dual program. F. Fontana explained that this program will open students up to more industries and that this is a responsible decision to ensure students will have positive career outcomes. Jobs in the sports administration industry can be hard to come by, so the department felt it would be wise to have students complete a second major for additional job options.

N. Bird clarifies that students could add any second major, and this is not limited to Wilson College of Business majors. F. Fontana confirmed the students can declare any major as a second major. J. Zhu questioned whether a student would be able to graduate with this major solely. R. Kidwell confirmed no and explained that we have another program like this and students have to graduate as a double major. She went on to say there is room for human error, but the Office of the Registrar is reliant on advisors to also monitor these students to ensure a second major is declared.

D. Heistad inquired regarding this program currently running on an Individual Studies basis. F. Fontana explained that this has been running under the Individual Studies BA, but the department feels that it is time to have a standalone major. The curriculum submitted has been changed from the current Individual Studies: Sport Administration BA to accommodate an issue with seats in courses. D. Heistad stated that there were 100 students in the Individual Studies: Sport Administration program within 2 years, which is an impressive number. She inquired if any of the current students will be hurt by ending the Individual Studies: Sport Administration BA. F. Fontana confirmed that students in the Individual Studies: Sport Administration program can finish out with the existing curriculum, but after this new program is approved students will start in this new program.

D. Heistad explained that it was confirmed by Alicia Rosberg that the consultation she completed was on behalf of the entire Wilson College of Business.

- **STRENGTHCOND-MINOR: Strength and Conditioning Minor (edited)**

N. Bird asked for clarification regarding KINES 3140 requiring 8 credits, when the course is only eligible to be repeated for 3 credits. R. Kidwell explained that the course was updated this cycle to be eligible to be repeated for a maximum of 8 credits, which aligns with the minor.

Agenda Items – Courses

- KINES 2026: Recognition & Prevention of Athletic Injuries (added)
- KINES 3128: Sport Facility and Event Management (added)
- KINES 3129: Revenue Generation in Sport (added)
- KINES 3187: Topics in Sport Administration (added)

N. Bird asked if the topics will change regularly for KINES 3187. F. Fontana explained that the topics will rotate based on current events, but this will not be a true topics course. R. Kidwell explained that if the department would want the topic on the transcript, they will need to make it a true topics course.

J. Zhu asked about the offerings listed as “variable”. F. Fontana explained the course offering is due to faculty resources and transparency for students.

Chair Heistad called for a vote on the motion to approve the Department of Kinesiology and Athletic Training proposals. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Curriculum Review Procedures for Curriculum Proposals in the Department of Nursing & Public Health

C. Holcombe moved, H. Porter Occeña seconded, to approve the Department of Nursing & Public Health proposals.

Agenda Items – Programs

- HEALTHSCIENCES-BA/BS: Health Sciences Major (added)

C. Holcombe stated that in the Applied Health and Diagnostic Medical Sonography Concentrations the following courses have hidden prerequisites: BIOL 3101 and BIOL 3151. D. Cornish asked if the recommendation would be to remove the courses listed as options (“ors”). R. Kidwell suggested leaving the “ors”, and the Office of the Registrar will review for hidden prerequisites and add any necessary asterisks.

D. Heistad explained that the Public Health BA was not tagged as a vulnerable program on the Workforce Alignment Review, however it was indicated that it is close to being a vulnerable program.

D. Cornish explained the department has already been accommodating students that are double majoring. This new program would allow for sonography students to leave UNI with a degree. This program would also serve as a placeholder for students that are not sure about which program to declare, but know they would like to work in the healthcare administration field. Many of the courses are prerequisites applicable in other programs. D. Cornish went onto explain that UNI has a 2+2 sonography articulation with Allen, but the spots are very limited. There are currently 49 students declared in the Sonography pre-major, which would not be able to be accommodated by the Allen agreement.

M. Balong inquired regarding the Sonography program onboarding. D. Cornish explained it would be similar to the Nursing BSN with prerequisites and a minimum GPA requirement.

D. Cornish explained the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program will start Fall 2028 even though it is being proposed now. D. Heistad mentioned that holding space for these programs allows for UNI to pivot later if necessary.

D. Cornish mentioned that sonography clinical placement is 1:1, so keeping cohorts small is important. D. Heistad noted that UNI will need to be equipped to facilitate placements for all students in the program.

N. Bird asked about funding for this program. D. Cornish explained that sharing of resources will happen with Nursing. The department is planning to charge differential tuition for these students, as they already do with the Nursing students.

N. Bird mentioned the Public Health concentration has Nursing courses listed as elective options. D. Cornish explained that this is not new, and the department was selective about which courses are shared. She mentioned that this is a pathway for Nursing students that no longer want to continue in the Nursing program to be able to apply those courses to another program.

R. Kidwell will add asterisks to NUR 2510 and NUR 2575.

N. Bird inquired about the credit range due to the Diagnostic Medical Sonography concentration requiring 89 credits, putting it in extended major territory. D. Heistad asked if a student can still graduate with 120 hours. D. Cornish confirmed this is possible.

D. Heistad asked about comparing this to other lengthy programs. R. Kidwell confirmed this program can still be done in 120 hours, and the extended program designation signifies the student cannot complete the program with 120 hours.

- HLTHCAREADMIN-MINOR: Healthcare Administration Minor (added)

Agenda Items – Courses

- DMS 2100: Introduction to Diagnostic Medical Sonography and Patient Care (added)
- DMS 2200: Sonographic Physics and Instrumentation I (added)
- DMS 2300: Sonographic Sectional Anatomy (added)
- DMS 2400: Abdominal Sonography I (added)
- DMS 2500: Principles of OB/GYN Sonography I (added)
- DMS 2600: Musculoskeletal Sonography (added)
- DMS 3200: Sonographic Physics and Instrumentation II (added)
- DMS 3400: Abdominal Sonography II (added)
- DMS 3500: Principles of OB/GYN Sonography II (added)
- DMS 3700: Introduction to Vascular Sonography (added)
- DMS 3800: Pediatric Sonography (added)
- DMS 4000: DMS Registry Preparation I (added)

- DMS 4001: DMS Registry Preparation II (added)
- DMS 4100: DMS Clinical Externship I (added)
- DMS 4200: DMS Clinical Externship II (added)
- DMS 4300 Clinical Externship III (added)

Chair Heistad called for a vote on the motion to approve the Department of Nursing & Public Health proposals. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Curriculum Review Procedures for Curriculum Proposals in the Department of Psychology

C. Holcombe moved, H. Porter Occeña seconded, to table the Department of Psychology proposals.

Agenda Items – Program

- BEHAVIORHEALTH-CERT: Certificate in Behavioral Health (edited)

N. Bird stated that the Mental Health Technician Emphasis requires 27 credits, which puts it into minor length territory. A. Butler explained in the major there are applied pathways and the department felt that these certificates would help to provide students with competency for further certification. A. Butler requested to table this certificate so he is able to review the proposal with faculty.

D. Heistad confirmed tabling the Psychology Department packet so the department can review the definitions of the lengths of programs. A. Butler will email D. Heistad and R. Kidwell once he has talked to faculty.

Agenda Items – Courses

- PSYCH 2410: Dilemmas and Decisions in Psychology (added)
- PSYCH 3410: Anxious, Lonely, and Overwhelmed (added)
- PSYCH 3420: Applied Behavior Analysis (added)

Chair Heistad called for a vote on the motion to table the Department of Psychology proposals. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Curriculum Review Procedures for Curriculum Proposals in the Department of Community and Geographic Innovation

C. Holcombe moved, H. Porter Occeña seconded, to approve the Department of Community and Geographic Innovation proposals.

Agenda Items – Programs

- COMMDATADECISIONS-CERT: Certificate in Community Data and Decision Making (added)
- ENVRESMGMT-BA: Environmental Resource Management Major (deleted)
- GEOG-BA: Geography Major (deleted)
- GEOSPATIALSCIENCE-BS: Geography and Geospatial Science Major (edited)
- SOCGENDCLTRE-CERT: Certificate in Sociology of Gender and Culture (deleted)
- SOCRACEETH-CERT: Certificate in Sociology of Race/Ethnicity and Immigration (deleted)
- SOLVEPROBLEMSCOMMUNITY-CERT: Certificate in Solving Problems in Community Systems (added)

D. Heistad explained that Environmental Resource Management and Geography BA will be deleted after these are approved. The Geography and Geospatial Science BS will be absorbing the Geography BA, and students will select two concentrations.

Agenda Items – Courses

- SOC 3088: Happiness, Well-Being, & Society (added)
- SOC 3385: Data Dives: (Topic) (added)

N. Bird provided a friendly reminder for GCC that the department should provide a clear difference regarding how undergraduate and graduate work will be reviewed.

Chair Heistad called for a vote on the motion to approve the Department of Community and Geographic Innovation proposals. The motion passed unanimously.

X. Curriculum Review Procedures for Curriculum Proposals in the School of Public Affairs and Service

C. Holcombe moved, H. Porter Occeña seconded, to approve the School of Public Affairs and Service proposals.

Agenda Items – Programs

- LAWENFORCE-MINOR: Law Enforcement Minor (added)
- PUBLICHR-CERT: Certificate in Public Personnel & Human Resources (deleted)
- SECURITYINTELPOL-CERT: Certificate in Security, Intelligence, and Policy (added)

S. Peters requested to update the SECURITYINTELPOL-CERT from 6 credits to 9 credits. R. Kidwell will make this change.

D. Heistad explained that most of these changes are due to departments moving.

Agenda Items – Courses

- CRIM 2010: The Science of Society: Research Methods and Data Literacy (added)
- CRIM 3142: Juvenile and Family Law (added)
- CRIM 3220: Get Rich Quick Schemes: Ponzi, Pyramids, and Multilevel Marketing (added)
- CRIM 3440: Law Enforcement Topics in Homeland Security (added)
- CRIM 3850: AI in the Justice System (added)
- POLSCI 2500: Career and Professional Preparation in Political Science (added)
- POLSCI 3300: Public Issues, Personal Values: (Topic) (added)
- POLSCI 3385: Data Dives: (Topic) (added)

S. Peters explained that some of these courses will be cross-listed to allow for more flexibility in faculty.

J. Zhu asked if the new courses being added into the new programs as required courses or as elective options. S. Peters explained that the program electives are very open and these courses would be options.

Chair Heistad called for a vote on the motion to approve the School of Public Affairs and Service proposals. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Next Meeting – Wednesday, September 9, 3:00 pm, Presidential Room, Maucker Union

Discussion of CHAS-Sciences proposals.

The meeting adjourned at 4:26pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Kline

Office of the Registrar

cc: UCC

GCC

Guests