

RA&DM Development Team Meeting, 18 Jan 07, 110 SSC

Attendees: Mendonca, Rodriguez, Jensen, O'Connor, Hurd, Stecker

Notes:

- This month's meeting was facilitated by Scott Hurd and centered on discussion of proposed courses in "Risk Analysis" and "Science Policy Formulation"
- Concerns regarding these courses are (i) end-user focus – targeting for the right audience (and thus having the appropriate strategies for cross-listing and numbering of the courses) and (ii) making sure the two courses are compatible with one another and our overall goals for the RA&DM certificate and minor.
- Focus of current offering (AGRON/VDPAM/TOX 570) is more quantitative with only an introduction to other aspects of risk analysis (management, communication, policy).
- Discussion of proposed 400-level course "**Risk Analysis for Food and Feed Production**"
 - Modify syllabus to better recognize aspects of (i) management, (ii) cost-effectiveness of decisions/regulations; (iii) strategic mechanisms for risk and decision-making; (iv) logistics (who regulates what?), and (v) the cost effectiveness of resource allocation.
 - Course numbering – to accommodate economics students this might need to be a 500-level (option cross list as 500-level in ECON?)
 - Cross-listing – How does the new budget model impact cross-listing?
 - This course is intended to give a front-end overview to various aspects of risk analysis and provide examples (cases)
 - Prerequisites – Need to balance appropriate background with desire to have a diverse group of students – perhaps instead of specific course prerequisites, there could be a statement "familiarity with statistics and research methods"?
- Discussion of proposed 600-level course
 - Tentatively title "**Science Management and Policy**"
 - List as a 500-level offering – this will provide a better strategic fit
 - Prerequisite discussion – What background deficiency would prevent a student from doing well in the course? – The student should be able to undertake critical thinking on science." Consider for the initial offering a prerequisite of "6 credits of science" and then modification based on experience from the initial offering. *[Jeff's comment – in order for the course to be substantial at the 500-level it would seem there would need to be a higher degree of sophistication in student understanding of science – how about xx-credits of science at the upper undergraduate level?]*
 - In developing the syllabus, consider other institutions' offerings; for instance Tufts 241B "Agricultural Science and Policy II"
 - Course concepts
 - Describe and present cases of ways to inform policy: cost/benefit; risk assessment; valuation/welfare analysis; moral judgments/ethical considerations *[Jeff's suggestion – engage Clarke Wolfe on ethics applied to policy]*
 - Outline the logistics of decision making – who decides – in terms of the agencies involved and the regulatory process; private market perspective

Decisions:

- The proposed science policy course will be listed at the 500-level and tentatively titled "Science Management Policy."
- In view of outstanding issues with regard to the design of Risk Analysis for Food and Feed Production we will move the target date for the initial offering to Spring 2008 from Fall 2007.

Actions:

- Contact John Miranowski and gain some insight from the perspective of the Institute of Science and Society toward Science Management and Policy [Jensen]
- Revise and recirculate the syllabus for Risk Analysis for Food and Feed Production [Wolt will do this along with a draft of the Experimental Course offering approval]
- Develop a further elaboration of Science Management and Policy as a 500-level course [O'Connor, Jensen, and Carriquiry]
- Find out the influence of the budget model on cross-listing of courses [Wolt will investigate]
- Talk to departments about the course and get some feed back. Identify existing courses that could be adapted for this minor [Hurd]
- Next meeting: outline communication strategy for RA&DM; list course relevant for inclusion in the minor/certificate – 21 Feb, 2 pm, 110 SSC