Mississippi State University

University Committee of Courses and Curricula

Meeting Minutes

January 23, 2026

Present: Amy Adkerson, Tracey Baham, Sawyer Bowering, Marty Bray, Randy Campbell, Tracey Craven, Nathan Drake, Keegan Figueroa (voted proxy via Karolina Heathcock), Donna Gordon, Alexis Gregory (voted proxy via Ashley Studdard Hughes), Kate Gregory, Karolina Heathcock, Evan Kaplan, Kris King (proxy via Kiley Forsythe), Brad Lang, JuYoung Lee, Danielle Molina, Rob Moore, Brittany Moore-Henderson, Emily Owen, Tommy Parker, Andy Perkins, Krishna Poudel, Matthew Priddy, Aswathy Rai, Neeraj Rai, Amber Robinson, Wendy Roussin, Barry Stewart, Jacob Tschume, Kenna Vowell, Jim Watkins

Excused: Attila Karsi, Tawny McCleon, Narcisa Pricope, Kimberly Woodruff

Absent: Alyssa Miller

Guests: Megan Artz, Career Center; Angi Bourgeois, Provost Office; Mike Breazeale, General Education Committee; Rachael Carter, College of Integrative Studies; Jacob Crook, Art; Melody Fisher, Communication, Media, & Theatre; Seamus Freyne, Civil & Environmental Engineering; Afshin Hatami, Building Construction Science; Prakash Jha, Plant & Soil Sciences; Stephenie King, IDITCCL; Chris Misun, Communication, Media, & Theatre; Lynda Moore-White, College of Integrative Studies; Jamie Runnels, Art; Peter Ryan, Provost Office, David Shaw, Provost Office; Catherine Shi, Math & Statistics

Perkins called the meeting to order at 1:32.

Perkins introduced Provost Dr. David Shaw, who addressed the committee and answered questions from members. Dr. Shaw thanked the committee for their work and service to the university, as the UCCC has some of the highest workload of any committee on campus. Dr. Shaw updated the committee on developments since the last time he spoke with UCCC in February of 2025. At that time it appeared that the UCCC was dealing with minutia and issues that took away from being able to deal with curriculum maters at a university level. Dr. Shaw wrote a letter to the Robert Holland Faculty Senate (RHFS) asking for a potential review of the UCCC's policies and procedures, with the goal of increasing the UCCC's efficiency and allowing the committee to focus more on big picture issues and helping move the university forward long term. Dr. Shaw believes the resulting conversations and letter from UCCC Chair Perkins back to RHFS have accomplished just that, and there is good, productive, two-way conversations between administrators and UCCC leadership happening that will continue forward. These have helped give university leadership a better understanding of UCCC processes and what ways colleges can support the mission of UCCC, and the committee is already having more high-level discussions of the sort Dr. Shaw wants to continue seeing. Dr. Shaw then asked the committee if members had any questions, either as follow up to any of the discussion around the RHFS letter, or new items of concern.

Highlights of the discussions that followed included:

Members of the committee asked follow up questions dealing with the processes at the college and department levels, as well as educating faculty about the current UCCC processes so that Deans, Department Heads, and others could potentially take a more involved role in curriculum development and addressing issues before proposals arrive at the UCCC. Dr. Shaw acknowledged that these sorts of questions were a large part of what was being tackled at a recent meeting between the Deans Council and UCCC leadership, and that colleges are sharing more information about their approaches. A suggestion was made that colleges may wish to have some of their UCCC representatives serve on their college curriculum committees as well, either after or during their current term, as some colleges currently do, and as several members have found helpful in aligning the goals and approaches of their own departments and colleges.

There was discussion of future issues the committee will face and what support can be provided. Dr. Shaw acknowledged that with changes to the university general education, the addition of new colleges and schools, and in particular the rise of AI, the number of conflicts over curriculum and ownership of content areas will continue to grow. A specific question was raised concerning any guidance from the Provost Office concerning when curricular needs or developments clash with financial constraints and realities. Dr. Shaw said that those specific conflicts would likely have to be handled on a case by case basis, but offered general guidance for situations like this and those involving AI. His hope is that the committee will balance the ability of the university to grow, be flexible, and create new opportunities for students, with the realities of finances and the need to avoid duplication. Student needs must be served, but in an optimized way whenever possible.

Moore moved to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2025 meeting. Lang seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was approved.

Elections were held for the UCCC Chair and Vice Chair for the upcoming academic year. Robinson was the only nomination received for Vice Chair, and A. Rai was the only nomination received for Chair. Both were elected unanimously.

Perkins led a discussion of the Bylaws, with a draft of proposed changes based on last month's discussion being distributed to the committee two weeks prior to the meeting. Those changes were; defining faculty eligible for membership as those holding the rank of department head or lower; defining colleges and dean led schools as those with voting representatives on the UCCC; defining that the current Meridian location representative will be elected from the Meridian Division of Education and Meridian Division of Arts & Sciences; updating the names of the Center for Innovation in Teaching Excellence and the Center for Advising; correcting two minor typos.

N. Rai moved as an addition to the Bylaws that the General Education Committee shall have a non-voting representative on the UCCC. Robinson seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Priddy moved as an addition to the Bylaws to define UCCC meetings as happening in-person. N. Rai seconded the motion. Discussion included the necessity of including this phrase, and committee members pointed to a lack of involvement and discussion in online meetings, as well as in-person being aligned with RHFS meeting procedures. The motion was approved.

Priddy moved to approve the changes to the Bylaws as presented. Stewart seconded the motion. The motion was approved, with the changes taking effect immediately.

Lang moved to allow Moore-Henderson to complete her membership term on the UCCC, although she will not be eligible for re-election under the revised Bylaws. Robinson seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Priddy moved to have an apportionment report prepared and presented to the UCCC this spring. Bray seconded the motion. As new colleges and Dean lead schools will be represented on the UCCC in the upcoming academic year, it is considered as a good time to look at the possible reapportionment of the UCCC representation as a whole. The motion was approved.

Campbell moved to approve the modifications of EXL 3100 and EXL 3200. Poudel seconded the motion. Some of the issues discussed included: The courses are labeled as full-time and part-time internships, but the part-time course shows 6 hours of course work but the full-time only has 3, which seems backwards. The new prerequisite requirements also make it seem as though freshmen can take internships, and little explanation was provided as the GPA requirement is being lowered. There are additional minor syllabi edits that will be communicated to the proposers. Priddy moved to pass the course proposals contingent upon the stated concerns being addressed. Lang seconded. The motion to pass contingent was approved.

Campbell moved to approve the addition of PSS 4533/6533. Poudel seconded the motion. Some of the issues discussed included: There are several minor syllabus edits that will be communicated to the proposer. These include clarifications for online students and how their participation will be assessed, and clarifying the grade scale. Roussin moved to pass the course proposal contingent upon the stated concerns being addressed. Priddy seconded. The motion to pass contingent was approved.

Campbell moved to approve the modification of the BS in Building Construction and the addition of the Minor in Construction Management. Poudel seconded the motion. Some of the issues discussed included: Both programs have courses that are awaiting final approval. Additionally, the minor is using the major code BCS, but that may need to be changed to the exiting code CSMG. Priddy moved to pass the program proposals contingent upon the stated concerns being addressed. Robinson seconded. The motion to pass contingent was approved.

Moore moved to approve the addition of ART 2703 and the modifications of ART 3063, ART 3443, and ART 4773. Robinson seconded the motion. Some of the issues discussed included: More clarity on project grading and weighting with percentages would be helpful for all courses. ART 3063 and ART 3443 are also inconsistently named. Priddy moved to pass the course proposals contingent upon the stated concerns being addressed. Roussin seconded. The motion to pass contingent was approved.

Moore moved to approve the addition of ART 3773. Robinson seconded the motion. Some of the issues discussed included: More clarity on project grading and weighting with percentages would be helpful, and there are some unnecessary dates in the syllabus. Priddy moved to pass the course proposal contingent upon the stated concerns being addressed. Roussin seconded. The motion to pass contingent was approved.

Moore moved to approve the modification of ART 4620. Robinson seconded the motion. Some of the issues discussed included: There are some minor syllabus edits that will be communicated to the proposer. Priddy moved to pass the course proposal contingent upon the stated concerns being addressed. Roussin seconded. The motion to pass contingent was approved.

Moore moved to approve the modification of the BFA in Art. Robinson seconded the motion. Some of the issues discussed included: There are courses that are awaiting final approval. Priddy moved to pass the program proposal contingent upon the stated concerns being addressed. Roussin seconded. The motion to pass contingent was approved.

Stewart moved to approve the addition of CO 3883. N. Rai seconded the motion. The subcommittee that reviewed the course proposal recommended approval. The motion was approved.

Stewart moved to approve the additions of INS 3603 and INS 4603. N. Rai seconded the motion. Some of the issues discussed included: Some signatures in the letters of support could be updated to be current. Additionally the abbreviated titles need to be altered to be better understandable and legible in the master schedule and on transcripts. Priddy moved to pass the course proposals contingent upon the stated concerns being addressed. Lang seconded. The motion to pass contingent was approved.

Stewart moved to approve the addition of ED 9663. N. Rai seconded the motion. Some of the issues discussed included: There is no reference to the University Syllabus, and the letter of support references ED 9664 rather than ED 9663. Priddy moved to pass the course proposal contingent upon the stated concerns being addressed. Lange seconded. The motion to pass contingent was approved.

Lang moved to approve the modification of the BA in Communication. Lee seconded the motion. Some of the issues discussed included: Some concentrations are offered via distance, while others are offered only through the Starkville campus, and all concentrations need to be appropriately labeled with the campuses they are offered through. Priddy moved to pass the program proposal contingent upon the stated concerns being addressed. Robinson seconded. The motion to pass contingent was approved.

Lang moved to approve the additions of the BA in Statistics and the BS in Statistics. Lee seconded the motion. The subcommittee that reviewed the program proposal recommended approval. The motion was approved.

Lang moved to approve the addition of the BAS in Criminal Justice. Lee seconded the motion. Some of the issues discussed included: This proposal was previously tabled by the committee for needing a letter of support from the Department of Sociology. The department has provided a letter of non-opposition, which is quoted below. In said letter they stated that they would not oppose the creation of the degree program, but would not “collaborate with Meridian in standing up” the new program. The committee raised questions as to whether this counts as support and would fulfill the UCCC requirements, as well as questions about student welfare issues that might stem from a lack of collaboration. With these issues in mind the committee decided that they could not in good faith pass the new program without these concerns being addressed. Priddy moved to table the program proposal, with the request that the College of Arts & Sciences consult with the Provost Office to facilitate conversations between the departments in question since there is still disagreement at the college level, with the goal of ensuring student welfare. Moore seconded. The motion to table was approved.

Vowell moved to approve the modification of the MS in Counselor Education. A. Rai seconded the motion. The subcommittee that reviewed the program proposal recommended approval. The motion was approved.

Vowell moved to approve the modification of the EdD in Education-Educational Policy & Organizational Design concentration. A. Rai seconded the motion. Some of the issues discussed included: Some clarification is needed on how much credit is required post-bachelor for admission, and then for degree completion, as well as accounting for transfer hours, as the current language is confusing. Additionally, the required hours for ED 8620 need to be clarified. Priddy moved to table the program proposal based upon the stated concerns. Lang seconded. The motion to table was approved.

Vowell moved to approve the modification of the BS in Elementary Education. A. Rai seconded the motion. Some of the issues discussed included: The letter of support provided is password protected and needs to be reuploaded for the committee to be able to review. Additionally, the committee would like more information about the options available to students who will be effected by the removal of the early childhood concentration, especially as concerns have been raised by other effected departments. Priddy moved to table the program proposal based upon the stated concerns. Robinson seconded. The motion to table was approved.

Vowell moved to approve the modification of the MS in Workforce Education. A. Rai seconded the motion. The subcommittee that reviewed the program proposal recommended approval. The motion was approved.

Kaplan moved to approve the additions of CE 2223, CE 4203, and CE 4253. Moore seconded the motion. Some of the issues discussed included: These courses were all tabled at a previous meeting and all still have some minor syllabus edits that will be communicated to the proposers. Priddy moved to pass the course proposals contingent upon the stated concerns being addressed. Roussin seconded. The motion to pass contingent was approved.

Kaplan moved to approve the additions of CE 2221, CE 3401, and CE 4883/6883. Moore seconded the motion. Some of the issues discussed included: These courses were all tabled at a previous meeting and still have some significant concerns. CE 2221 and CE 3401 have the minimum required contact hours, but they are not evenly spread over the 15 week semester. This schedule could cause issues for students and for scheduling and needs clarification. CE 4883/6883 still needs additional information about its extra graduate requirements. Priddy moved to table the course proposals based upon the stated concerns. Roussin seconded. The motion to table was approved.

Gordon moved to approve the additions of TOUR 3613 and TOUR 4613. Bray seconded the motion. Some of the issues discussed included: Clarification is needed for how late work will be accepted for weekly reflections, and what students will be expected to do as part of major projects. Additionally, there are some minor syllabi edits that will be communicated to the proposers. Priddy moved to pass the course proposals contingent upon the stated concerns being addressed. Moore seconded. The motion to pass contingent was approved.

Gordon moved to approve the addition of the BS in Tourism and Destination Development. Bray seconded the motion. Some to the issues discussed included: There are several missing letters of support from departments with courses in the required program of study. Additionally, the proposer will be asked to consult with the registrar’s office to correct some formatting issues. Priddy moved to table to program proposal based upon the stated concerns. Moore seconded. The motion to table was approved.

Lang moved to adjourn. Priddy seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn was approved and the meeting was adjourned at 3:58.