THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA ASHEVILLE

FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number SD5824S

Date of Senate Approval 05/02/2024

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Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

APC Document 47 (ATMS): **Establish new course, ATMS 201, Map Discussion; Update the ATMS minor requirements to exclude the use of ATMS 201 from the electives for the minor**

Effective Date: Fall 2024

1. **Add:** On page 94, new course, **ATMS 201, Map Discussion**:

201 **Map Discussion (1)**
Discussion of live weather situations in an interactive setting. Meteorological principles applied to observations, weather maps, diagrams, numerical models, and forecasts. May be repeated for a total of 8 hours credit. Will not count toward atmospheric sciences electives. See department chair.

2. **Delete:** On page 94, under "Minor in Atmospheric Sciences":

A minimum of 19 hours in Atmospheric Sciences with at least 6 hours at the 100-200 level and at least 6 hours at the 300-400 level. ATMS 381-3, 490 and 499 may not be used to fulfill requirements for the minor.

Add: On page 94, in place of deleted entry:

A minimum of 19 hours in Atmospheric Sciences with at least 6 hours at the 100-200 level and at least 6 hours at the 300-400 level. ATMS 201, 381-3, 490, and 499 may not be used to fulfill requirements for the minor.

Impact: *Map Discussion* is an elective course. The addition of ATMS 201 will have no impact on current students or funding. The course will require instruction by an Atmospheric Sciences faculty member.

The following items address the requirements for new or revised course proposals:
1. This optional elective course does not fulfill any major or university requirements.
2. Information about the course:
   a. The student learning outcomes include the following:
      - Lead a formal map discussion
      - Improve forecasting skills through participation in the WxChallenge national forecast contest
      - Synthesize meteorological principles and apply concepts to live weather situations
   b. In its first offering as a special topics course in Fall 2023, this class enrolled 17 students.
   c. The class meets for 50 minutes per week.

   d. This is a discussion-based course.
   e. There are no material needs. The class may be larger than the capacity of the classrooms typically assigned to the Department of Atmospheric Sciences, so a larger classroom may be required.
   f. This course is 1 contact hour and 1 faculty workload hour.
3. Dr. Christopher Godfrey will teach this course. Other faculty members in the Department of Atmospheric Sciences can teach the class if necessary.
4. The department envisions offering the course in both the fall and spring semesters, but enrollment trends will help to determine the eventual offering schedule.
5. The proposed course will have no impact on the ability of the department to deliver the existing curriculum.
6. This is a unique course that is not part of the UNC Common Numbering System (CNS), nor is there a need to add it to the UNC CNS.

Rationale: The ability to lead and participate in a formal map discussion is an important skill for professional meteorologists employed in the media, academia, and the private sector. Yet prior to Fall 2023, students majoring in the atmospheric sciences have not had an opportunity to learn about or participate in formal map discussions. Dr. Christopher Godfrey first offered this course as an ATMS 271 special topics course with the same title just prior to the first day of classes in Fall 2023 and immediately enrolled over a third of the atmospheric sciences majors at the university. This course helps students at all levels learn from each other and freely ask questions to fill in knowledge gaps that are not covered by other major courses. The department encourages participation by all students and repeated enrollment in each semester since the current weather, and hence the topic of discussion, changes at every class meeting. While the expectation is that we will offer ATMS 201 in both fall and spring, the course remains relatively new and we would like to see enrollment trends before specifically stating in the catalog that the course is offered in both semesters. To avoid the possibility of students earning a minor in atmospheric sciences through repeated enrollment in ATMS 201 and without completing other 100- and 200-level course options offered by the department, we wish to exclude ATMS 201 from consideration as a course that will satisfy the minor requirements. We have also added a note in the course description to indicate that the class will not count toward required atmospheric sciences electives so that students will continue to sample the broad array of elective courses that we offer. Dr. Godfrey or any other atmospheric sciences faculty member will continue to offer ATMS 201 as a permanent part of our vibrant curriculum. All faculty in the Department of Atmospheric Sciences agree with this proposal.