

Meeting minutes—UGA School of Chemical, Materials, and Biomedical Engineering Curriculum Committee

Spring meeting #2: Thursday, March 19th, 2026 at 9:55AM

Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/6274306590>

Link to meeting materials ([OneDrive](#))

Committee members: Alison Banka (chair), Yang Liu, Jim Kastner

Attending: Eduardo Silva [not present], Jeremy Wheatley [not present], Kajal Patel [not present], Yajun Yan

Agenda:

1. Welcome + introductions
2. Approval of previous meeting minutes

February's meeting minutes were approved by committee.

Key takeaways/next steps: Alison will send February's meeting minutes to Lillian to be posted publicly online.

3. New study away proposal—Biotechnology in Beijing

Yajun presents information about his new proposed study abroad program (same information as when he introduced this program in the February CMBE faculty meeting). Questions/concerns from faculty during that meeting were addressed and CMBE voted unanimously to approve. Main concern from CMBE faculty is the idea of a 6-credit hour class. Can we generate an exception case for this? If not, Yajun talked to John Brocato about John's study abroad that has 2 courses and Yajun might do the same (one seminar and one lab, 3 credits per course), that way the 6 credits in total can be 'used' in some way.

The other main concern brought by CMBE faculty was how this will benefit the BCHE program. This program would allow students to have hands-on experience and increase the # credit hours generated within our school (something ABET touched on last time was increasing lab course credits offered by the school).

The target of this program will be CMBE students, though open to UGA students.

There was conversation about industrial relevancy in this program Is there an opportunity for students to go visit industrial fermentation facilities? The answer is yes--BUCT has their own beer brewing (mid-scale) lab. There is also a beer industry in Beijing that is very large. Students in that area often do internships at that company, so that is another option for field trips/seeing industrial-scale fermentation.

There will be an ongoing conversation about what classes are taught and if they will count for specific graduation requirements. For example, could these classes count as engineering electives? Or engineering lab electives (for BIOE students)? If this lab

course exactly duplicates BCHE 4180L in the future, could it 'count'? These will be ongoing conversations as the program goes through the university approval process.

CMBE full faculty has already approved this program, so the committee approves of this study abroad program moving to the college level. We will continue to be in contact as the program gets approved and the classes more fully developed to determine how the classes can fit well into the BCHE and BIOE UG curricula/satisfy graduation requirements.

After college level approval and OGE office, Yajun will develop a new course proposal for this/these courses.

Key takeaways/next steps: The study abroad will be sent to the college curriculum committee for approval (Yajun will attend that meeting). Afterwards, pending approval, the study abroad proposal will be sent to OGE for approval. Yajun will work with the CMBE CC when further developing these classes to help determine where they fit in with the BCHE and BIOE curricula.

4. Course change proposal—ENGR 2170L

Will this change be across all college? Yes! This specific Circuits course will be offered without the in-person lab component and switching to online/remote tools and software simulations.

Yang teaches a class that requires ENGR 2170L as a pre-requisite, but removing the in-person component actually doesn't impact his course specifically.

There are some concerns about loss of hands-on experience in this arena. A course in Electronics might be helpful for our students in the future. However, there are no concerns large enough to warrant not approving of this course change.

Approved by committee.

Key takeaways/next steps: Send approval of this course change to the college-level curriculum committee.

5. New course proposal: ENGR 4279 (INTL 4279 crosslist) [currently being edited based on ECAM CC feedback]

Currently being edited, so we will table this discussion until our next meeting once changes are in place.

Key takeaways/next steps: Address this new course proposal during our April meeting.

6. ENGR 4115—approval as BIOE and/or BCHE elective

While this course was approved by our committee previously, there wasn't a conversation about if this should count as a BIOE or BCHE elective. There are some questions about if Fluid Mechanics should be a pre-requisite for this course; the students aren't digging into the complicated aspects of macro-level fluids (and microfluidics is very different). Whatever information about fluids necessary for the class are included within the class. Not requiring fluids as a pre-requisite allows for ECE students to take the class, giving it broader appeal in the college.

ENGR 4115/6115 is appropriate for an engineering elective for both BIOE and BCHE students.

Addition of ENGR 4115/6115 as an engineering elective for BIOE and BCHE UG students approved by committee.

Key takeaways/next steps: Add this course to list of approved engineering electives in BCHE and BIOE to PARC once it is open and share this information w/ advisors. Update 5-year plans of study to reflect this change.

7. BIOE 4750—follow-up from last meeting/college-level feedback

Quick follow-up—the college curriculum committee raised concerns about the number of credits hours (3) this class has while not having adequate time in lab. These concerns were relayed to the instructor of record, who will decide how to proceed (options include lengthening the time spent in lab, including a lecture component to the class, or some combination of both).

Key takeaways/next steps: None currently.

8. MBB—follow-up from last meeting (plan of study accuracy?)

We compiled useful information about the MBB program (and in particular, what online resources are not up to date or accurate) during our last minute. Alison conveyed that information to Yantao. Knowing if the 5-year plan of study for students pursuing an MBB Double Dawg would be beneficial.

Key takeaways/next steps: Ask CMBE advisors to look at the current MBB Double Dawg plan of 5-year plan of study (for BCHE/MBB and BIOE/MBB) for accuracy.

9. Standing ABET update

We spoke briefly about upcoming ABET items, including an external SSR Review Opportunity coming up. Jim will have to work with John Brocato to figure out what changes have been made to the curriculum/updates. It would be useful for Alison to see a past ABET report/self-study to base her work off of, so Jim will send our past self-study for her reference.

Key takeaways/next steps: Jim will send Alison a previous ABET self-study.

10. Other business:

Bring your fall schedules to our April meeting so we can pick fall meeting times!

11. Next meeting: Thursday, April 16, 2026 at 9:55AM