Memorandum

Date: February 14, 2017

To: Dr. Mark Archambault, Chair, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

From: Dr. Kastro Hamed, Department Head, Education & Interdisciplinary Studies

Through: Dr. Hamid K. Rassoul, Dean, College of Science.

Re: Rationale for the Requested Changes to the B.S. in Interdisciplinary Science (7035, 7037, 7038)

Our Department has struggled for a number of years with the university requirements for the B.S. in Interdisciplinary Science (7035, 7037, 7038), including those associated with QEP 1 and the annual University Assessment. There are a number of reasons for this:

- the total number of students in these three major codes has always been relatively small;
- majors enter these degree program at various times, sometimes as late their Senior Year, because historically this program has served as a retention tool for students who are no longer in a position to complete a degree in a field of science;
- with respect to QEP 1, students in these majors have been allowed and encouraged to enroll in any Q courses, notably those associated with their primary area(s) of science and math (i.e., outside of our Department). When the Office of Institutional Research has been asked to help us identify which Q course(s) in which these students enrolled, it was found that few had done so;
- with respect to the University Assessment, the number of majors enrolled in courses in which Assessment Measures are housed in any given calendar year (CY) is a fraction of the small number of these majors. More specifically, current University Assessment Measures for this degree program are limited to: (a) courses that are not offered by DEIS, notably COM 1102 (Measure 1) and COM 2223 (Measure 2), which makes it challenging for COM to provide and DEIS to access available data; (b) courses that are usually taken in a student’s first or second year (COM 1102 and 2223), and usually well before a student has declared Interdisciplinary Science (ISC) as their major, which means that annual assessment data from these courses for current B.S. in ISC majors is rare; and (c) only one other DEIS course, EDS 4900, which is not a designated Q course.

In summary, to rectify these concerns, DEIS is seeking (1) the designation of EDS 4311 as a Q (QEP) course for this degree program; and (2) the addition of EDS 4311 as a required course for all three B.S. in ISC majors. Doing so would address the need for a consistent Q course for these majors, as well as make EDS 4311 available as a second course to DEIS faculty for program-level assessment use, thereby overcoming the Department’s current limitations in data and data collection mentioned above.
REQUEST TO CHANGE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A COURSE

Any change, addition or removal of any restriction, or change in credit hours or availability for a course requires this form, accompanied by any supporting documentation, be completed and approved as indicated below.

College: Science
Department: Education & Interdisciplinary Studies

Request is for change in course: EDS 4311 Research Methods

To be included in 2017/2018 Catalog
Course changes are effective beginning with the fall term in which they appear in the University Catalog.

Is request for a change in the name listed above? □ Yes □ No If yes, requested name ____________________________

Is request for a change in credits for course listed above? □ Yes □ No If yes, current credits ______ requested credits ______

Is request to change restrictions for course listed above? □ Yes □ No If yes, please check all that apply:

- Add □ Remove □ Prerequisite □ Corequisite
  Prefix ______ Number ______
  Prefix ______ Number ______

- Add □ Remove □ Prerequisite □ Corequisite
  Prefix ______ Number ______
  Prefix ______ Number ______

- Add □ Remove □ Other Restrictions* □ Yes □ No If yes, please use box below:

*Other restrictions may include changing the grade mode (P/F, S/U, A-F, CEU), deactivating a course already in the system, majors or class levels restricted from registration, or other restrictions.
Please enter the complete prerequisite/restriction list as it should appear if this change is approved:

Change the prerequisite for EDS 4311 to "EDS 2502 or consent of instructor"

Yes □ No □ Is this request for the course to be used to measure program-level student learning outcomes?

Yes □ No □ Is this request for the course to satisfy the scholarly inquiry requirement? If yes, attach "Q" materials for review.

Yes □ No □ Will this change impact any existing programs? If yes, attach "Changing Graduation Requirements" form for each program that is impacted.

Approvals: Once appropriate department approvals are completed, submit to the Office of Graduate Programs, or Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Chair for placement on agenda.

1) [Signature]
   Date: 2/16/17
   Originator

2) [Signature]
   Date: 2/16/17
   Department Head/Program Chair

3) [Signature]
   Date: 2/16/17
   Dean or Associate Dean

4) [Signature]
   Date: 2/16/17
   Chair, Graduate Council

OR

Chair, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee
Date

Catalog & Curriculum Manager's Use Only

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SCABASE _______ SCARRES _______ ACALOG _______ Operator Initials _______ Date _______

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The addition or removal of any graduation requirement in a major or minor requires that this form, accompanied by supporting documentation, be completed and approved as indicated below. Incomplete or incorrect forms will not be processed.

COLLEGE: Science

DEPARTMENT: Education & Interdisciplinary Studies

DEGREE LEVEL: Bachelor's (B.S.)

PROGRAM TITLE: Interdisciplinary Science

TO BE INITIATED WITH CATALOG YEAR 2017/2018

CHANGE REQUESTED FOR: □ major program □ minor program

Major/Minor Code: 7035

Program changes are effective beginning with the fall term in which they appear in the University Catalog.

☐ Yes ☐ No Will this change impact the program's assessment process? If yes, attach a description of how the assessment will be impacted and the new process.

DESCRIPTION OF REQUESTED CHANGES: Attach a more detailed description and any supporting documentation.

DEIS seeks to add EDS 4311: Research Methods (3 crs.) as a course requirement for this degree program.

In general, EDS 4311 fits the nature, intent, and scope of this degree program. Historically, this is a very flexible degree program, designed to accommodate each student's background and interests, as indicated by the Degree Requirements and Curriculum (flowchart) in the 2016-17 University Catalog (http://catalog.fit.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=4&poid=1002).

As an upper division course for which a Q designation is sought for this major, students will be advised to take this course during their Senior Year.

This addition of this course will not increase the number of credits to be taken as part of this degree program. Specifically, EDS 4311 will be taken as part of the Interdisciplinary Science credits to be completed for this major, all of which are offered by this Department (a total of 43 credits, of which 21 must be at the 3000/4000 level).

Approvals: On completion of appropriate department approvals, submit form to Chair, Graduate Council, or Chair, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, for approval below and forward to the Catalog & Curriculum Manager.

Chair, Graduate Council
Date

OR

Chair, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee
Date

REGISTRAR'S USE ONLY

CAPP / Degree Evaluation

☐ Yes ☐ No Update completed _______ Academic Year _______ Initials

Catalog Management System

☐ Yes ☐ No Update completed _______ Academic Year _______ Initials

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RGR-201-215
The addition or removal of any graduation requirement in a major or minor requires that this form, accompanied by supporting documentation, be completed and approved as indicated below. Incomplete or incorrect forms will not be processed.

COLLEGE: Science

DEPARTMENT: Education & Interdisciplinary Studies

DEGREE LEVEL: Bachelor’s (B.S.)

PROGRAM TITLE: Interdisciplinary Science - Aeronautics

TO BE INITIATED WITH CATALOG YEAR: 20\textsuperscript{17}/20\textsuperscript{18} CHANGE REQUESTED FOR: [ ] major program [ ] minor program

Major/Minor Code: 7038

Program changes are effective beginning with the fall term in which they appear in the University Catalog.

[ ] Yes [ ] No Will this change impact the program’s assessment process? If yes, attach a description of how the assessment will be impacted and the new process.

DESCRIPTION OF REQUESTED CHANGES: Attach a more detailed description and any supporting documentation.

DEIS seeks to add EDS 4311: Research Methods (3 crs.) as a course requirement for this degree program.

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APPRAISALS: On completion of appropriate department approvals, submit form to Chair, Graduate Council, or Chair, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, for approval below and forward to the Catalog & Curriculum Manager.

Chair, Graduate Council

Date

Chair, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

Date

REGISTRAR’S USE ONLY

CAPP / Degree Evaluation

[ ] Yes [ ] No Academic Year Update completed Date Initials

Catalog Management System

[ ] Yes [ ] No Academic Year Update completed Date Initials

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RGR-231315
DEIS seeks to add EDS 4311: Research Methods (3 crs.) as a course requirement for this degree program.

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