

# CAS Undergraduate Council Meeting

## Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2016

### I. Call to Order

Deborah Tollefsen called to order the regular meeting of the College of Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Council at 2:30 p.m. on October 20, 2016 in Scates 212.

#### Introduction/Roll Call

The following persons were present: Deborah Tollefsen (CAS); Vinhthuy Phan (Computer Science); Susan Elswick (Social Work); Randy Floyd (Psychology); Firouzeh Sabri (Physics); Michael Duke (Anthropology); Rob Marczynski (Interdisciplinary Programs); Graves Enck (Sociology); Dorian Burnett (Earth Sciences); Peter Bridson (Chemistry); Theron Britt (English); Scott Marler (History); Keri Brondo (International Studies); Patsy Krech (CAS); Burt Burraston (Criminology & Criminal Justice); Lan Zhang (Foreign Languages & Literature); Alistair Windsor (Mathematical Science); Andrew Olney (IIS); Barbara Taller (Biology); Susan Fitzgerald (CAS)

The following Council members were absent: Remy Debes (Philosophy); Candace Walsh (Public & Non-Profit Administration); Kathy Lou Schultz (Women's and Gender Studies)

#### Approval of minutes from last meeting

The minutes of the September 15, 2016 meeting were unanimously approved with the following corrections:

Correction of institution name in section e. of New Business.

Addition of "to the BS in Chemistry" to section iii. under Review and Approval of Curriculum Proposals.

### II. Curriculum Review

- a.1 Interdisciplinary Studies -- #s 97,98,99 proposed title changes from Pre-Health Studies to Health Care and Society, to avoid confusion with offerings from the School of Public Health—approved
- a.2 Interdisciplinary Studies – removal and substitution of Economics courses in the Legal Thought minor—approved
- a.3 International Studies – continued updates to the program: adding 3 hours to core; refining sequences; renaming courses—approved

- b. Mathematical Science – one number change (from 1420 to 1010) to conform to other institutions’ numbers; changes to the calculus sequence; three title changes; changes to course description for 1710—all approved with some discussion:
  - Peter Brand’s question regarding the different numbers for honors calculus was answered by the explanation that the honors courses require different prerequisites than the regular ones.
  - Peter Brand also suggested that since 1420/1010 is a prerequisite for Chemistry 1010, he’d like to see an introduction to Algebra in the course content.
  - Barbara Taller suggested that Math might avoid confusion with abbreviated course titles by using standard journal abbreviations.
- c. PADM – Since no one from the department was present to address questions regarding the proposed BS program, this proposal was tabled.
- d. Philosophy – title changes were approved, but a discrepancy between the proposal and track changes was noted. Deborah Tollefsen will look into the issue and report back.
- e. Physics – Astronomy II with a lab component was proposed as a new Gen Ed course, due to student demand and request; approval of this course will require a name and content change to Astronomy I; 4211 proposed changing description and content of course; some catalog revisions to assure consistency in prerequisite requirements and labs—all approved with some discussion:
  - Possible confusion regarding total credit counts; Deborah Tollefsen thinks the current count is correct.
  - There was also discussion regarding a lab fee for the proposed new course, and the department was instructed to consult with the dean regarding this.
- f. Psychology – Randy Floyd (substituting for Helen Sable) presented two new course proposals for classes which have been popular special topics, as well as removal of a prerequisite—approved.
- g. Social Work – Proposing adding a new writing course to their curriculum to address student needs—approved
- h. Computer Science – proposing a new concentration in Cybersecurity and some modified course descriptions—problematic course numbers precipitated discussion:
  - Since the proposed new courses were said to have been special topics, Barbara Taller pointed out that they did not have special topics numbers per the catalog description; no one knew whether this was a problem or simply a catalog error.
  - Since TBR will not meet again after their December meeting, and there is uncertainty about the approval process under the new governing board, Deborah Tollefsen suggested that the council approve the concentration and tentatively approve the courses contingent on clarification from the department, University curriculum, and Karen Thurmond.—approved

Deborah Tollefsen will talk to PADM and Philosophy regarding their proposals and report back to the council.

### III. Discussion of ACE/ACP

Deborah Tollefsen reported that she had received assessments of the ACE courses from History and Math and had passed them on to the dean and to Dick Irwin. Patsy Krech had provided some information regarding Finish Line students (who were the target of this pilot program). CAS currently has 10 students in the program and eligible to use these courses. Eligibility requirements include having completed over 90 hours of coursework in good standing (2.0 gpa) and being willing to complete their degree.

At issue now, however, is the fact that the “pilot” is over, and the program may not be restricted to Finish Line students. While accepting the courses on a broader scale might not hurt specific majors, there is the possibility that students who take these courses as prerequisites for other majors will not have the skills to succeed in those majors. There is also the perceived possibility that, because these courses are inexpensive, conventional students will choose to take them, resulting in our departments suffering enrollment loss. Patsy Krech pointed out that this is not likely, since the ACE courses are not on our list for approved transfer credits, which students must fill out and have approved before transfer credits can be applied. Tom Nenon has said that, should “abuse” of the system be detected, the college can simply cease accepting these courses across the board. Deborah Tollefsen suggested that if cost is the incentive, perhaps Dick Irwin’s office might offer a tuition break for our own courses. Others pointed out that their departments already offer on-line versions of Gen Ed requirements, which are more appropriate and which require critical thinking skills, proctored exams, and exams that are not simply multiple choice questions. Alistair pointed out the one of the math courses is essentially credit by exam, rather than an on-line course, and suggested departments would be better served by offering credit by exam for particular course requirements. Other questions had to do with how these courses would be identified on transcripts.

The discussion concluded with Deborah Tollefsen recapping the departmental assessments: Sociology, Philosophy, Chemistry, and Physics do not object to the courses at this time; History and Math do object to the courses. She reiterated that Tom Nenon will support departmental decisions and that credits are approved on a course-by-course basis by departments, rather than in wholesale fashion. She will relay the committee’s comments to Tom Nenon and to Dick Irwin and will report back to the council,

- In a related issue, Peter Bridson brought up a change in the assignment of credit for CLEP in both Chemistry and Biology. Deborah Tollefsen stated that she will discuss the issue with Tracy Robinson and provide an update at the November meeting.

**IV. Adjournment**

With no new business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be November 17.