

University Undergraduate Curriculum Council

May Meeting Minutes (including 2 attachments)

May 8, 2020

Virtual via Zoom and Curriculog

Present:

Voting Members: Debra Bartelli (SPH), Lisa Beasley (LCON), Sandra Cooley-Nichols (COE), Russell Deaton (ENGR), Susan Elswick (A&S), Joanne Gikas (CPLS), John Haddock (A&S), Alfred Hall (COE), , Matthew Haught (JOUR), Michael Hutchinson (KWS), Joseph Jones (A&S), Claudio Meier (ENGR), Lisa Mendel (CSD), Charles Pierce (FCBE), Martha Robinson (MGMT), Terra Smith (Faculty Senate), Laurie Snyder (CFA), Deb Tollefsen (A&S), Lawrence Weiss (SHS)

Non-Voting Members. Carol Danehower (Academic Affairs), Ashley Connolly (A&S), Kenneth Haggerty (Libraries), Melinda Jones (Honors), Keri Kerr (Registrar), Inger Parnell (SAS), Victoria Tardugno (A&S)

Absent:

MaKayla Carr (SGA), Carl Chando (ACC) Sandra Cooley-Nichols (COE), Alletha Davis (Registrar), Ryan Fisher (CCFA), Sean Holden (OIR), Darla Keel (Registrar), Ron Serino (CPLS), Karen Weddle-West (SAS)

Proxy:

Joanne Gikas for Ron Serino (CPLS)

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at approximately 1:04pm pm, by Carol Danehower, when a quorum was achieved. In lieu of sign-up sheet, attendance was noted by roll call.

Old Business

Minutes from December and January meetings were approved by unanimous vote. Minutes from February and May meetings (including the April votes) will be put in Curriculog for review and vote, UUC members will be notified by email.

In April two issues were put before the UUC for vote in Curriculog and both were affirmed: (1) A name change for "School of Health Studies" to the "College of Health Sciences" was affirmed. This change was voted on by the UofM Board of Trustees at its March meeting; and (2) A proposed revision of the Undergraduate Grade Appeals

Committee composition was affirmed. Both of these issues are detailed in Attachment 1 of these minutes.

For information: Math Placement policy regarding the use of the ACT Math Subscore is being implemented with one adjustment due to pandemic conditions. Closure of the Testing Center has necessitated the temporary reversion back to the unproctored version of ALEKS as the alternative placement mechanism for students who did not have an ACT score. A timeframe for opening of the Testing Center and use of the proctored ALEKS as an alternative is not known.

New Business – Accelerated Bachelors to Masters (ABM) Program Guidelines – Carol Danehower

(see Attachment 2 of these minutes for ABM Guidelines proposal)

There was much discussion, primarily centering around department flexibility in admission guideline interpretation, specifically related to looking at additional criteria (GPA in major courses) along with selection/admission criteria proposed. It was noted that while Graduate School made the final decision on ABM admission, department recommendations and support of students based on a wider range of ability indicators were weighted most heavily in Graduate School actions.

The motion to approve the ABM guidelines was approved (17 aye, 2 nay, 1 abstention)

Announcements

Curriculog Training for Summer will be on “as needed” basis; requests for training to Tori Tardugno with at least 2 week lead time, vcrynlds@memphis.edu

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:05 PM.

UUC May Meeting Minutes Attachment 1 Actions Posted in and Voted for in Curriculog in April 2020

- **Name Change of *School of Health Studies* to *College of Health Sciences***

From SHS: The School of Health Studies (SHS) was formed in the summer of 2015, with approximately 30 full time faculty and staff members and a student population of 803 majors. In fewer than five years, the SHS now employs 52 full time faculty and staff members and has more than 1700 declared majors. At the University, only the College of Business and the College of Arts and Sciences have more declared majors while the College of Communications and Fine Arts is roughly comparable to us in that regard. We offer two graduate majors with a total of six concentrations, two graduate certificates, two undergraduate majors with a total of six concentrations, and one undergraduate minor.

In addition to our academic growth, our research program has also expanded significantly. We have hired several excellent young scientists and have upgraded and expanded our laboratories. We have further developed our extensive research focus in health science-specific inquiry at both the cellular and applied levels.

Considering our growth and reach, we believe it is appropriate to change our status from that of a School to a College to better reflect the size of our operation. Furthermore, we request a name change from *Health Studies* to *Health Sciences* to better reflect the academic and research foci emanating from the science-intensive programs. Thus, the *College of Health Sciences* better represents who we are and what we do.

- **Revision of Undergraduate Grade Appeal Committee Composition**

The current UG Grade Appeal Committee membership is larger than is necessary for timely and fair processing of appeals. Reducing the number from 7 to 5 members will maintain broad participation in the process while allowing for more timely response. The proposed structure removes College participation in this stage of the process to insure unbiased adjudication.

Language Prior to Vote

The Undergraduate Grade Appeals Committee shall be composed of seven members and seven alternates constituted as follows:

A chair designated by the Vice President for Student Academic Success, a faculty member and alternate designated by the dean of the college involved, two faculty members and two alternates designated by the Faculty Senate, one student and one

alternate designated by the college, two students and two alternates selected through the Student Government Association.

Current Language Affirmed by April 2020 Vote

The Undergraduate Grade Appeals Committee shall become a standing committee with members serving a one-year term. Composition of the five committee members is:

A chair designated by the Vice President for Student Academic Success, two faculty members and two alternates designated by the Faculty Senate and two students selected by the Student Government Association.

UUC May Meeting Minutes Attachment 2

Accelerated Bachelors to Masters (ABM) Program Guidelines

Recently SACSCOC has indicated (in rulings at other universities around the country) that institutions must offer strong justification for the existence of ABM programs in which graduate courses count toward both the undergraduate and graduate degrees. Further, it has come to our attention that there is a lack of consistency in the way that ABM programs are portrayed in our UG and Graduate catalogs. This proposal brings strength and clarity to the ABM selection/admission process across the University (and documentation of such) and explains the process whereby we will ensure maintenance of consistency in reporting ABM requirements in both catalogs.

Proposals Passed in UUC May Meeting

Proposal for UUC Vote: The Online Undergraduate Catalog will update references to the appropriate justification for having these programs, including wording such as:

1. Creating an opportunity for high-ability undergraduate students to access more advanced experiences in their chosen area of study
2. Exposing high-performing undergraduate students to graduate-level study to ascertain if it meets their professional aspirations
3. Incentivizing highly capable students by accelerating their graduate program progression and completion

Proposal for UUC Vote: The Online Undergraduate Catalog will be updated to include reference to the following standards of selection and admission processes:

Departments will conduct a comprehensive review of the student's background for the purpose of identifying high-level qualifications for acceptance into ABM programs, considering the following:

1. Invitation or sponsorship from a program faculty member and the undergraduate advisor
2. Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25
3. Progress toward UG degree--within 30 semester hours of completion (exact hours may vary and are determined by the specific academic program)

4. Approval may be based on other academic program-specific guidelines
5. ABM admission or completion is no guarantee of admission into or progression in a graduate program of study

FYI: The catalog will be revised to include a section which includes an explanation of ABM programs with language including the above.

Any needed catalog revisions to individual programs will be accomplished as soon as possible, with completion no later than mid-August before the beginning of Fall 2020. ***Departments with ABM programs are encouraged to indicate what specific undergraduate courses in the major will be replaced by specific graduate courses whenever possible.***