

**University Undergraduate Council**  
**October 9, 2015**  
**Minutes**

**PRESENT (voting):** Will Thompson (A&S – proxy for Deborah Tollefsen), Judy Brown (MIS), Lloyd Brooks (FCBE), Stan Walls (SHS), Joanne Gikas (UNIV), Deborah Hochstein (ENGR) Jeff Marchetta (ENGR), Shirleatha Lee (NURS), DeAnna Owens (EDUC – proxy for Jennifer Nelson), Radesh Palakurthi (HPRM) , Firouzeh Sabri (PHYS), Peggy Quinn (UNIV) Barbara Taller, (BIOL), Laurie Snyder (CFA), Helen Sable (PSYC), Sandy Utt (JOUR), Raven Douglas (SGA).

**PRESENT (ex officio):** Dick Irwin (Academic Aff), Carl Chando (ACC), Bess Robinson (Libraries), Karen Thurmond (Acad Advising), Barbara Kyker (Recorder)

**ABSENT:** Deborah Tollefsen (A&S), Jennifer Nelson (EDUC). Mate Wierdl (Faculty Senate), Melinda Jones (Honors),

**GUESTS:** Tracy Robinson (Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning, Colton Cockrum, (QEP)

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Irwin at 1:00 pm when a quorum was achieved.

### **Welcome and Introductions**

### **Experiential Learning Credit**

Based on previous interest, Tracy Robinson, Director, Innovative Academic Initiatives, was invited to review Experiential Learning Credit (ELC) and the opportunity for departments to create “placeholders” to allow ELC to be posted as credit on transcripts. Tracy mentioned several ways of earning ELC – through volunteerism, military experience and work experience, and she noted that ELC is not credit for experience; it is credit for the learning which takes place during the experience. Training is available for those interested in becoming portfolio evaluators, and that training may eventually be available online. Students who express interest in ELC should be directed to the website <http://www.memphis.edu/innovation/> and also to their advisor for more information.

### **QEP**

Colton Cockrum, Director of QEP, Academic Coaching & Support Services, spoke on the university’s Quality Enhancement Plan, or Academic Coaching for Excellence at UM. This is a five year process and we are in year one – freshmen on academic warning are meeting with a coach every other week. The committee on QEP decided that the second year of the plan would include sophomores as well. All students are required to meet with their coach every other week because data shows that if a student meets with his or her coach at least 7 times during the semester, there will be a noticeable improvement in their GPA. Skype and phone coaching is currently available where needed, and online coaching is planned. Handout attached. The UUC voted in favor of the addition of sophomore students to the QEP. (Additional QEP information below.)

### **University College**

Joanne Gikas submitted several proposals for approval including 2 new courses, CDFS 2100, Intro Child Dev w/Field Experience and UNIV 1500, Career Skill Bldg Workforce Development, and the closeout of UNIV 3401 and 3402. Other proposals included a name change for UNIV 3740 and minor catalog changes. The committee asked for clarification of the course content of CDFS 2100. Motion to approve pending clarification of CDFS 2100 Taller, seconded Marchetta. Approved.

## **Nursing**

Shirleatha Lee submitted a proposal to change the name of the Loewenberg School of Nursing to the Lowenberg College of Nursing. Motion to approve Lee, seconded Snyder. Approved.

## **Discover Your Major Day**

Carl Chando commented on the success of this year's Discover Your Major Day and its importance, considering the fact that approximately 65% of students do not graduate in the major they began in.

## **Degree Mapping**

Dick Irwin asked council members to have departments review their 4 year plans in the catalog

## **Repeats of A's and B's**

Dick says that soon there will be a flag set in Banner to prevent students who have already earned an A or B in a course from re-enrolling in that same course. This will bring us into compliance with TBR requirements, and grades of C and S could also be considered. Advisors will have the ability to override the flag when appropriate.

## **NCUR 2017**

The university will host 3000+ students on our campus in April, 2017. Participation could be a "tipping point" for the next tier of students who might be involved.

Deadline for proposals to be included in the November 16 UUC is Monday, November 2. )Additional NCUR information below.)

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Kyker

## **NOTES:**

QEP Benchmarks (as outlined on Page 51-52 of final QEP document):

- 1.) 50% of students will demonstrate improvement in academic self-efficacy
- 2.) 50% of students will show an increase in resiliency (grit)
- 3.) 50% of students will demonstrate an increase in educational commitment
- 4.) 50% of students will demonstrate improvement in time management
- 5.) 50% of students will identify an academic pathway to degree completion

The first four benchmarks are measured via a pre-test/post-test using the SSI. The last benchmark will be measured using a dichotomous measure



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Hosting the 2017 National Conference for Undergraduate Research (NCUR)  
Enhancing Student Engagement, Retention & Completion

The University of Memphis has the distinguished honor of hosting the National Conference for Undergraduate Research (NCUR) in April, 2017. Serving as host provides multiple promotional opportunities for the U of M; none more important than immersing undergraduate students in research related to their academic major and desired professional field.

The Council for Undergraduate Research inclusive definition of undergraduate research:

- *An inquiry or investigation conducted by an undergraduate student that makes an original intellectual or creative contribution to the discipline.*
- Enables the U of M to involve students from all academic disciplines and varying academic standing.
- Participation crucial for high performing students from across campus
- Students not familiar with the merits of intellectual/creative discovery involvement.
- This type of engagement, under the direction of a faculty mentor, has a significant impact on student retention, persistence, completion and success after graduation.

Submission date of December, 2016 ([www.cur.org/ncur\\_2014/abstract\\_submission](http://www.cur.org/ncur_2014/abstract_submission)) warrants:

- Academic planning to begin immediately.
- Submissions accepted for work in progress with all research completed by conference.
- Spring, 2017 graduates likely need to consider project initiation fall, 2016.
- Those engaged in multiple term projects warrant a starting date of spring, 2016.

Academic units encouraged to consider altering scheduling policies to enhance participation.

- Spring, 2017 graduates complete Senior Project/Capstone experience semester prior to graduation or during first session, spring term
- Fall 2016 graduates are eligible to submit to NCUR as long as the research was performed while they were undergraduates.

This unique experience has the potential to yield a legacy of strengthened student-faculty relationships, enhanced understanding of project-based solutions, and clearer paths to degree completion. Perhaps most importantly, hosting NCUR will elevate the profile of undergraduate research serving as a means to broaden and enhance its role on our campus.

For up-to-date information on NCUR 2017 please visit: [www.memphis.edu/ncur](http://www.memphis.edu/ncur).

