

2025 - 2026 UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL

October 14, 2025| 3:30pm

Campus Commons 2200

MINUTES

Present: Clavir, Couch, Epperson, Etheridge-Woodson, Harris, James, Karlin, Pepmeyer,
Sonnentag, Spivak-Perna, Torres
Zoom: Cosio, du Bray
Absent: Guetler, Muralimanohar, Sedinger
Guest: Corrine Wieben

Call to Order 3:30pm

Approval of Agenda approved without objection

Approval of Minutes from September 9, 2025 approved without objection

Chair's Report/Announcements (Karlin) – Academic Policies received a proposal from Mikay Elliot regarding the change from “academic probation” to something different, it is currently tabled for further discussion. The committee also discussed the Micro-credential Review Committee. A graduate school proposal is forthcoming, and work is being done about the academic appeals process. In Faculty Senate President Feinstein gave brief report of what he will talk about at budget town hall. The undergraduate council has two vacancies, one EBS seat and one NHS seat.

Reports from Councils

LAC (Etheridge-Woodson) – The LAC discussed the makeup of Curriculum Category Committees and how they are defined. The LAC has had trouble filling those seats.

Etheridge-Woodson is working with Muller and Wood on FAQ's for challenge exams.

Assessment Council (Sonnentag) – Assessment Council continued to work on program curriculum mapping and related tasks. Bebee collaborating with OIRE on Power BI and assessment planning underway for next year.

Student Government Association (Escudero) – SGA met yesterday; President Feinstein discussed the budget and preparations for next year. Some SGA members will attend the budget town hall on Thursday. There is discussion about a potential collaboration between SGA and UGC

Special Reports

New Business

- Revisions to Honors courses (Corinne Wieben, Robert O. Schulze Chair for Honors and Interdisciplinary Studies)
 - Minor or major changes will have go through normal workflow and process
 - HON 180: Title change from “**Great Ideas in Context**” to “**Honors International Literature & Humanities**”
 - Rationale: The revised title allows for a broader interpretation of the course content, providing greater flexibility in course design and delivery for faculty.

- HON 182: Title change from “**Confluence of Cultures**” to “**Honors Multicultural Literature & Humanities**”.
 - Rationale: The revised title allows for a broader interpretation of the course
 - content, providing greater flexibility in course design and delivery for faculty
- HON 420: Proposed change: Catalog description changes from “Examination of research paradigms and methodologies to develop the most appropriate research methods and data analysis processes to design and develop a successful **honors thesis proposal**” to “Examination of research paradigms and methodologies to develop the most appropriate research methods and data analysis processes to design and develop a successful **research or creative work**”.
 - Rationale: HON 351 focuses on helping students develop their honors capstone proposal. In contrast, HON 420 is better positioned as a dedicated research methods course that supports both creative and research-based projects, independent of the capstone proposal process
- MOTION: Epperson moves to approve the proposed changes to Honor curriculum, seconded by James
- VOTE: Motion approved unanimously
- Undergraduate Speakers Fall 2025 Graduations
 - College representatives selected their speakers and names will be sent to Anna Green.
 - A conduct check will also be done for those selected.
 - PVA did not have any eligible students and HSS will share their selected speaker with Karlin.
 - Students inquired about the process, but the webpage was inactive.
 - Communication with freshmen and sophomores was unclear, indicating a disconnect.
 - There were questions about why freshmen and sophomores were informed of this.
 - Each college has their own forms of communication which could have caused confusion.
 - It was suggested that a representative from the Graduation office be invited to a future UGC meeting to prepare for spring.
 - Members also suggested requesting a list of graduating students from the registrar.
 - It would be helpful to include deadlines on the website and mention the process at the grad fair.
 - Colleges’ individual communications can be confusing; breaking the list down by college or having the registrar email graduating students was discussed.
 - Communication should come from the registrar and UGC can draft the language, with an additional disciplinary check before announcements.
 - Karlin will draft language for discussion at the November meeting.
 - UGC members should receive speeches by November 6.
 - Epperson suggested replacing Anna Green’s name with “Director of University Events” in the Undergraduate Commencement Student Speaker Process and Timeline document.

- MOTION: Epperson moves to replace Anna Green's name with Director of University Events," seconded by James.
- VOTE: Motion approved unanimously

Unfinished Business

Comments to the Good of the Order

Adjournment 4:22pm