

## **2024 - 2025 UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL**

Feb 11, 2025| 3:30pm

UC Council Room

### **MINUTES**

Present: Clavir, Finley, Karlin, Larson, Matchett, Moore

Zoom: James, Muralimanohar, Reyonza Ayala, Sedinger, Wiegand

Absent: du Bray, Gottlieb, Guetler, Zimmerman

### **Call to Order 3:33pm**

**Approval of Agenda** approved with the addition of new business items

**Approval of Minutes from January 14, 2025** Karlin moves to approve the minutes, seconded by Moore. Motion approved.

**Chair's Report/Announcements (Larson)** – Faculty Senate discussed budget concerns. There were discussions about accelerated programs, FT/PT status for graduate students, and a 4-day finals week schedule at the last Academic Policies Committee meeting.

### **Reports from Councils**

LAC (Matchett) – The Liberal Arts Council wrapped up curriculum cycles and sent out communication to unit that will be doing indirect syllabus reviews.

Assessment Council (Finley) – The Assessment Council is moving sub-committee work along.

### **Special Reports**

### **New Business**

- Student Commencement Speaker selection process – Matchett
  - Matchett and Sedinger met with Anna Green last Wednesday, she is overseeing the undergraduate commencement ceremony.
  - The current nomination process is informal with minimal criteria.
    - UGC has informally selected speakers for the past two years.
  - For future ceremonies:
    - Speeches will be 3-5 minutes long.
    - Colleges will select the commencement speaker.
    - To increase the number of applicants, a formal nomination process will be introduced where faculty can nominate students and students can nominate themselves or their peers.
  - Current criteria for speakers are students must have a minimum 2.8 GPA and submit a statement reflecting on the “cornerstone” of their undergraduate experience.
    - Anna hopes UGC can establish additional criteria.
  - Debate over whether UGC should review applications or if vetting should happen within the UGC or graduation office.

- It was noted that it would make sense for UGC to create criteria and review the applications. However, vetting should be done at the college level.
- From a student perspective, the selection process should be consistent across colleges
- Finley recommends adding “good standing” as a criterion (no conduct violations).
  - Question 11 on the application addresses conduct.
- Should UGC have an official role in the process?
  - There is no existing language in the Board Policy Manual (BPM) or bylaws assigning UGC this responsibility.
  - If UGC wants a formal role, BPM and bylaws would need to be updated.
- The graduation office would collect applications and communicate with colleges.
- UGC would ensure applications include appropriate questions and criteria applicable across colleges.
- Matchett shared a 2021 document outlining past selection criteria.
  - The current application aligns with the document.
- Sedinger is comfortable with colleges selecting their own speakers since they know their students best. While UGC can still develop criteria and oversee the nomination process.
- Has the graduation office already sent out an announcement to dean’s office?
  - Not at the moment and they have never sent things out to the dean’s office and the applications are not published on the website yet.
- MOTION: Karlin motions UGC does work with respective deans toward selection UG students of that college, seconded by Sedinger.
  - Amendment – accepting the suggested timeline and role
- VOTE: Approved unanimously
- Matchett and Sedinger will update the graduation office and share more information with UGC once things are finalized.
- Matchett will draft proposed language for BPM and Bylaws for the next meeting and follow up with Anna’s office.
- Schulze Chair (re) appointment process – Matchett
  - Is there a better way to notify faculty broadly that Schulze chair is up for reappointment?
  - Karlin supports the plan and suggests implementing a process in February.
    - New February process
      - February UGC meeting: Dean of Undergraduate Studies notifies UGC that the current term is ending and whether the incumbent chair is willing and able to continue in the role.
      - UGC Reps work with their deans to notify faculty in their colleges about the current chair’s interest in reappointment and/or the need to appoint a new chair. Provost office delegate for Undergraduate Studies will also solicit input from the U-Engage Faculty Advisory Board.
  - Corrien Wieben is willing to continue as chair but there may be others interested. Matchett suggests UGC members inform their units about the reappointment in case others are interested.

- MOTION: Moore moves to approve the Shulz chair reappointment process, seconded by Karlin
  - VOTE: Approved unanimously
- Academic Probation Policies Changes – Mikay Elliott
- Narrative grade issue
- Residency Requirements for Certificates – Registrar’s Office (Ken)
  - An inquiry was received from a student wanting to transfer all credits from another institution and earn a UNC undergraduate certificate without taking any UNC courses.
  - There is currently no existing minimum residency requirement for certificate programs.
  - The issue was brought to APC, and they may seek a UGC recommendation.
  - The certificate in question is stand-alone and not tied to federal aid but still requires legal review.
  - James noted that if a residency policy is established, it should apply to all certificates at UNC.
  - Karlin strongly supports a residency requirement, arguing that no credential should be awarded without a student engaging with UNC in some capacity.
  - UNC already has residency requirements for majors and minors—should certificates follow suit?
  - Due to time constraints this item will be moved to unfinished business.
    - UGC will need to determine if they should recommend a policy to APC and address the policy gap by consulting with academic units

### **Unfinished Business**

- Narrative Grade Comment – Charlie/Registrar’s Office

### **Comments to the Good of the Order**

**Adjournment 5:03pm**