

UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL

February 9, 2021, 3:30pm

Remote Meeting - Zoom

MINUTES

Present: Castro, Couch, Dineen, Fitzpatrick, Fulton, Hawkinson, Klein, Matchett, McClatchey, Medina, Park, Rose, Somero, Tucker, Zukiewicz

Absent: Franklin, Withrow

Guests: Beyers, Clavir

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:34pm.

Approval of Agenda

Approved without objection.

Approval of Minutes 01-12-21

Approved without objection.

Chair's Report/Announcements (Dineen)

- Last week APC discussed withdrawal deadlines and S/U grading.
 - Withdrawal dates: The recommendation is to set the individual course withdrawal deadline as the Friday before finals week for full semester courses and apply a similar percentage to short courses.
 - S/U grading: We have data from the Fall 2020 S/U grading option to examine as part of our discussion today.
- Applications for undergraduate commencement student speaker are open; please encourage graduating seniors to apply.

Reports from Councils

- **LAC (Matchett)** – The Council is developing an assessment plan, revising bylaws, and reviewing LAC-related policy exemption requests.
- **Assessment Council (Park)** – No Report.

Special Reports

- **Canvas Utilization (Matchett)**
 - IRAS has a Canvas utilization report that can identify the level of content/usage in shells.
 - Kim Black's team tabulates the data and sends shells flagged for unusually low activity to the respective college deans.
 - Colleges can then follow up and provide support/training to faculty as needed.
- **Work-Based Learning (Matchett)**
 - House Bill 20-1002 mandates college credit for work-based experiences.
 - It's part of the wider push from the State to grow PLA credit.
 - The State is working with consultants to develop procedures for evaluating work-based experiences and awarding college credit.
 - We have about a year before implementation.

- We are waiting for guidance from the State to know how we need to respond as a University.
- The work will be transcribed as transfer credit.
- Significant faculty and staff time will be required in the management of the process: portfolio evaluation, transcription, etc.

Unfinished Business

- **Prior UNC degree credit applicability** – *on hold*

- **S/U grading**

- The Council reviewed data about how students used the S/U grading option for Fall 2020.
 - Over 1100 students submitted S/U grading applications.
 - Data is available by student level, course prefix/title, program of study, and letter grade replaced.
- Dineen – APC members shared many of the same concerns discussed previously at UGC. They also noted a surprising number of selections were made that otherwise would have been “A” and “B” grades.
- The Council discussed changing the grading policy to include a permanent S/U option.
 - Many universities have some sort of permanent S/U option.
 - Include a clause for what happens in emergency situations.
 - Policy parameters (deadline for selection, conditions of eligibility, etc.) must be carefully set.
 - Consider ramifications for program requirements, licensure, entry to graduate/professional studies, etc.
 - Consider continued use of “S+” to denote grades equivalent to a “C-“ or higher.
 - Perhaps require an advisor’s signature on the application as an assurance that the student has been made fully aware of the implications.
 - S/U is an option to support student enrichment/exploration where letter grades are not consequential.
- Dineen will be attending APC for continued discussion on the topic.

- **Exam proctoring**

- Matchett presented the latest proctoring policy draft.
 - APC also discussed the issue.
 - Biology faculty provided feedback/voiced concerns.
 - Feedback is still being sought.
 - The focus is to find a way to balance academic considerations and budget concerns.
- Further drafts will be produced before the UGC meeting in March.
 - UGC can provide its statement of support/concern by the April meeting.

New Business

Comments to the Good of the Order

- Dineen – Next month we'll hold elections for Chair and Vice-Chair.
 - Fitzpatrick nominates Dineen for UGC Chair for 21/22, and Dineen accepts the nomination.
- Castro – Election packets for Student Senate are open; please encourage students to apply.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:57pm.

Rachel Dineen
Chair

Betsy Kienitz
Recording Secretary