

## UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL

*April 13, 2021, 3:30pm*

Remote Meeting - Zoom

### MINUTES

**Present:** Castro, Dineen, Franklin, Hawkinson, Klein, Matchett, McClatchey, Medina, Park, Rose, Somero

**Absent:** Couch, Fitzpatrick, Fulton, Tucker, Withrow, Zukiewicz

**Guests:** Beyers, Clavir

#### Call to Order

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

#### Approval of Agenda

Approved without objection.

#### Approval of Minutes 03-09-21

Approved without objection.

#### Chair's Report/Announcements (Dineen)

- The S/U grading option for Spring 2021 was approved.
- Castro – Student Senate has been discussing the issue of how attendance policies vary across colleges/professors. With no standard expectations, students may experience a wide variation in what faculty require: doctor's notes, obituaries for funeral attendance, etc. Sometimes faculty mistakenly refer students to DOS to request 'excused' absences. Only the instructor can approve a student's absence. Castro met with DOS to discuss the issue.

DISCUSSION: The Council agreed that communication to faculty is needed to increase understanding of attendance policies and expectations, especially going forward beyond the pandemic. As course requirements vary greatly across disciplines, a standard university-wide policy may not be feasible. However, guidelines can be strengthened to promote better understanding among faculty and students.

#### Reports from Councils

- **LAC** (Franklin) – The Council is developing an assessment plan for the LAC that will likely include course embedded assessment. Tara Wood and Heidi Muller will serve as LAC Chair and Vice-Chair next year.
- **Assessment Council** (Park) – No Report.

#### Special Reports

#### Unfinished Business

- **Prior UNC degree credit applicability** - *on hold*
- **S/U grading**
  - APC recommends UGC make substantive recommendations for how to proceed with crafting a permanent S/U grading policy.
    - This is entirely separate from the emergency provisions for S/U grading implemented during the pandemic.

- UGC may form a subcommittee to take up the issue next year, particularly to investigate whether there is momentum or a need to pursue changes to the existing grading policy.

### New Business

- **CNU Interdisciplinary Studies: Student Designed degree plans**

- In its role as the curriculum committee for Interdisciplinary Studies, UGC reviewed ISSD degree plans for a cohort of Capital Normal University students.
  - UNC has a long-standing MOU with CNU, a university in Beijing.
- Rose explained that the students make use of one of five ISSD tracks established for CNU students that combine teacher education and additional programs.
  - The tracks are designed for students who are Chinese nationals working toward becoming teachers in China.
  - CNU students do not follow regular teacher education programs as they are not pursuing licensure.
  - Each track was developed by UNC faculty within the respective areas.
  - Each of the students has written a letter explaining their choice of program track.
- The proposals meet all criteria for submission and have been signed by the appropriate advisors.

MOTION: Franklin – It is moved to approve all the degree plans as presented.

VOTE: Approved by voice vote.

- **Schulze Interdisciplinary Chair**

- Matchett asked UGC for their feedback on a draft announcement of a new faculty chair position: Robert O. Schulze Chair for Honors & Interdisciplinary Studies.
  - Combined chair role for both the Honors program and the Interdisciplinary Studies program
  - Three-year commitment in a 0.4-0.6 FTE faculty position housed in Academic Engagement/Undergraduate Studies
    - Chair will also stay in their original home unit
    - May involve some work over summer months
- While the total teaching load must be negotiated with the home unit, the chair must teach two upper division HON courses.
  - Candidates must be full-time UNC faculty, preferably tenured faculty.
- UGC and the Honors Curriculum Faculty Advisory Council will have input in the selection process.
- Matchett will provide a OneDrive link for Council members to provide feedback through Friday, 4/16.

### Comments to the Good of the Order

- Dineen and Matchett thanked everyone for their work this year.
- Thanks to Dineen for her leadership and representation of UGC at APC and Faculty Senate.
- Congratulations to Castro, who is graduating this semester! Thanks for being a valuable member of the team.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:42pm.

Rachel Dineen  
Chair

Betsy Kienitz  
Recording Secretary