

UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL

December 8, 2020, 3:30pm

Remote Meeting - Zoom

MINUTES

Present: Couch, Dineen, Franklin, Hawkinson, Matchett, McClatchey, Medina, Rose, Tucker

Absent: Castro, Fitzpatrick, Fulton, Klein, Park, Somero, Thompson, Withrow, Zukiewicz

Guest: Clavir

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:39pm.

Approval of Agenda

Approved without objection.

Approval of Minutes 11-10-20

Approved without objection.

Chair's Report/Announcements (Dineen)

- **Interdisciplinary Studies BA:** The updates have been submitted and approved in the curriculum workflow.
- **Name in Use:** The item was pulled from the last Senate agenda due to concerns raised by CIE in the Name Change section of the policy. CIE, Admissions, and the Registrar's Office worked together to amend the language to address the concerns. None of their changes impact the Name in Use updates from Student Affairs. The catalog language update will go forward, and the item will go to APC and Senate in January as an information item.
- **Strategic planning forum:** The forum this afternoon featured presentations on key actions of the strategic plan and thorough Q/A; meeting recording and transcript are available at: <https://www.unco.edu/president/planning/campus-forum.aspx>

Reports from Councils

- **LAC (Matchett)** – The Council is continuing to review LAC course proposals. Plans for next year include developing an assessment plan and improving the required syllabus template.
- **Assessment Council (Park)** – No Report

Special Reports

Unfinished Business

New Business

- **Vickers Interdisciplinary Studies proposal for UGC review**
 - The Council reviewed Sean Vickers' student designed major: International Education.
 - Faculty advisors Richard Bownas (PSCI) and David Greene (HUSR) have signed in support of the plan.
 - Clavir confirmed the proposal follows the proper template and meets the criteria for submission, including having at least 30 upper division (300-400 level) credits.

- Matchett recommends approval of Vickers' ISSD Plan. Loree Crow has thoroughly vetted it and confirms it meets all requirements for the degree.
- The Council noted that in future proposals it would be helpful to have a semester-by-semester course plan to illustrate that the required courses will indeed be offered and available for the student to complete in a timely manner for degree completion.

MOTION: Franklin – It is moved to approve the proposal as presented.

VOTE: Approved by voice vote.

- McClatchey asked that, due to the lack of a quorum at today's meeting, the proposal also be put to an email vote to give all voting members have a chance to weigh-in.
 - Betsy will send an email vote for the Vickers plan tomorrow.

• **Prior UNC degree credit applicability**

- Currently there is no explicit policy language surrounding how credits earned in a prior UNC degree may/may not be applied to new degree.
 - Traditionally, it's been the department's discretion whether previously earned credits may apply to major requirements.
- However, the following policies are already established:
 - A maximum of 12 credits may be shared between a major and a minor.
 - Students must complete a minimum of 30 hours of UNC credit to qualify for a second bachelor's degree.
 - This applies to both UNC alumni and those transferring to UNC with a bachelor's degree from elsewhere.
 - Students cannot complete a second bachelor's degree in the same area of study as the previously earned bachelor's degree.
 - Twenty of the last thirty credit hours of a degree must be earned at UNC.
- Couch will research other universities' policies regarding the applicability of credit earned in prior institutional degrees and report back to UGC.

• **S/U Grading & Individual Withdrawal Deadline**

- For two semesters UNC has made changes to grading options and individual withdrawal deadlines during the semester.
 - The decision in Spring 2020 was justified because, due to the pandemic, students finished their courses in a very different format than originally intended.
 - The decision in Fall 2020 was made in acknowledgement that the pandemic continues to impact students in unanticipated ways.
 - This has raised the question of whether we should have S/U grading options available to students in any semester.
 - It has also raised the question of why our individual course withdrawal date is so early in the semester compared to the complete schedule withdrawal date.
- Both UGC and GC will be taking the issues under consideration in preparation for crafting a recommendation next year.
- Couch provided information about S/U grading and Withdrawal schedules.

- **S/U grading** – Apart from the options approved for Spring and Fall 2020, UNC’s S/U grading options are by course; only designated courses are eligible for S/U grading.
- Many schools have permanent policies in place that allow students to choose S/U grading (Couch provided examples). Considerations include:
 - Timing/deadline for S/U selection: by the drop deadline; by a certain week of classes; up to a certain percentage of the respective term
 - Conditions of eligibility for S/U selection: limit to elective classes only (exclude major, minor, and/or LAC); limit the total number of credits eligible for S/U; exclude any licensure-related credits; restrict S/U option by student type and/or GPA
- **Withdrawal dates** – Apart from the deadline change approved for Spring and Fall 2020, UNC’s individual course withdrawal deadline is at ~50% of the term, while the complete schedule withdrawal deadline is at ~80% of the term.
- Some Colorado schools have similarly staggered withdrawal deadlines on similar percentages of the term; however, it is not uncommon for schools to have the same deadline for both individual course and complete schedule withdrawals.
 - Complete withdrawal dates for Colorado schools range from about 60-95% of the term.
- Couch recommends moving the individual withdrawal deadline to match the complete schedule withdrawal deadline as there is no clear rationale for the staggered dates.
- In choosing a withdrawal deadline, UNC should consider whether students have had adequate time for feedback about their performance in the course before they decide to withdraw.
- Couch recommends aligning the S/U application submission to the withdrawal deadline (individual and complete) to keep deadlines consistent for students.
- UGC will pick up the conversation in January.

Comments to the Good of the Order

- Dineen – Thanks to everyone for their hard work this semester!
- Tucker – Thanks to Rachel for her excellent service as UGC chair.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:02pm.

Rachel Dineen
Chair

Betsy Kienitz
Recording Secretary