

## UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL

April 12, 2022 | 3:40pm

UC Council Room

MINUTES

**Present:** Couch, Denny, Dineen, Franklin, Klein, Matchett, Rose, Somero, Sonnentag, Welsh

**Absent:** Benavidez, Fulton, Henson, Park, Weber, Zukiewicz

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:40pm.

### Approval of Agenda

Approved without objection.

### Approval of Minutes 03-08-22

Approved without objection.

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

- This is our last meeting of the semester.
- The Faculty Senate passed a proposal to distinguish chair and director roles. If approved by the administration, unit leaders would fall under one of the following categories:
  - Chair - the unit leader of a department or free-standing program, or the unit leader of a school whose faculty workload includes instruction and/or professional activity in addition to chair service.
  - Director - the unit leader of a school whose entire assignment is professional administration.

In cases where school directors currently have mixed faculty/administrative roles, these unit leaders would become chairs.

### Reports from Councils

- **LAC** (Denny) – The Council voted to approve that all LAC courses must be offered at least once every two years to remain in the Curriculum; the two-year requirement aligns with the State's requirement for gtPathways courses. Indirect assessment is ongoing; results will be communicated to units in Summer. Tara Wood and Heidi Muller will continue next year in their roles as LAC chair and vice-chair respectively.
- **Assessment Council** (Dineen) – The Council received several proposals for assessment mini grants; decisions will be made by the end of next month. The Division of Academic Effectiveness is inviting applications for three faculty assessment liaison positions for 22/23: Learning Outcomes & Curriculum Mapping Liaison, LAC Assessment Liaison, and Assessment Methods Liaison.

### Special Reports

### Unfinished Business

- **S/U grading policy**
  - Council members continued review of the draft proposal with a goal of bringing the proposal to APC.
  - Matchett shared feedback from Stephanie Torrez's advising team.

DISCUSSION: *policy parameters*

- Faculty will grade the courses as they normally would, assigning a letter grade.
  - The coding of the S/U grade will be performed by the Registrar's Office.
- When can students opt into S/U grading?
  - If there is an application process, students will not be able to choose S/U grading at the time of registration.
  - They would need to apply after they have registered for the course.
  - Consider the steps of approval and who must review/approve the application (e.g., advisors, financial aid).
- Designing the S/U grading option as a proactive choice rather than damage mitigation.
  - Setting the application deadline as the course drop deadline would align with the grade replacement deadline.
  - Couch recommended removing the option for students to remove the S/U selection by the withdrawal deadline to limit the intricacies to manage in the policy.
- What's the relationship between S/U grading and program requirements?
  - Students may take a course as S/U to explore an area of study and ultimately decide to declare that major.
  - Some programs may specifically prohibit required courses from being taken as S/U, while other programs may be permissive of major requirements taken as S/U.
  - Replace "will not..." with "may not count toward credit for requirements in our major or minor."
  - Students will need to consult their academic advisors to ensure they understand potential impacts to their major/minor.
  - Perhaps build an option to enable students to revert to a letter grade if they declare a major that prohibits S/U grades.
- Can academic units control whether their courses are eligible for S/U grading?
  - Catalog notations could be used to denote whether courses are ineligible for the S/U grading option.
  - This would limit the availability of courses students could choose as S/U, but it would allow programs more control over their curriculum.
- Add notes in the eligibility section to:
  - Direct student athletes to work with the Student-Athlete Academic Success Center and Financial Aid.
  - Direct international students to work with International Student and Scholar Services.
  - Alert student to potential impacts in applying to graduate/professional schools.

MOTION: Dineen – It is moved to approve the S/U grading option recommendations with the changes discussed and send them to APC.

VOTE: Approved by voice vote.

• **Policies surrounding expectations for Canvas use**

- Council members discussed the benefits of using Canvas from the perspective of both supporting student success and bolstering data governance.
- The Council will consider making a policy recommendation next year.
  
- **Short term loans for students**
  - The question about providing short term loans for students arose from PEC's concern about students needing to pay for Praxis exams.
    - Beside the cost of standardized tests, there are many reasons students may find themselves in need of financial assistance (disaster relief, transportation, childcare, etc.).
  - Monies from the CARES Act, HEERF, and donor funds are being distributed to students.
  - Think about what assistance/services students may need and how to communicate available services effectively.
  - The Council will continue discussion next year.

### New Business

#### Comments to the Good of the Order

- We will need to select next year's UGC representatives for LAC and Assessment Council at the first UGC meeting next Fall.
- Thanks to everyone for their work this year.
- Thanks to Franklin for his service as chair.

#### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm.

Scott Franklin  
Chair

Betsy Kienitz  
Recording Secretary