

UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL

Minutes of November 8, 2022

Attending – M. Welsh (chair); P. Klein (vice-chair/recorder); L. Beyers; A. Bobo; K. Clavir; L. Henson; M. Larson; B. Markowski; N. Matchett; C. Moore; J. Park; S. Youngs (for B. Rose); C. Sonnentag

Absences – B. Blair; C. Couch; S. Franklin, E. Pepmeyer; S. Rose; M. Somero

Call to Order – Chair Welsh began at 3:35 pm.

Approval of Agenda – Approved without objection.

Approval of Minutes from October 11, 2022 – Approved without objection, following addition to “Comments to the Good of Order” and clarification regarding LAC assessment process.

Chair’s Report/Announcements (*Welsh*)

- APC continued discussion of block-scheduling proposal; received comment from 31 units with mixed reactions. Not everyone supported the idea and among those that did, the consensus for the common University day with no scheduled classes was for Friday, not Wednesday. APC will not move the proposal as it exists forward.

Reports from Councils

- **LAC** (*Youngs*) – Clarified the direct assessment process that is being planned.
- **Assessment Council** (*Markowski*) – No report.

Special Reports

None.

Unfinished Business

- **S/U grading option** – Extensive discussion regarding questions APC posed some weeks earlier. The following topics were discussed, and consensus was reached to move forward with the [policy as amended in this document](#), which was sent to APC by Chair Welsh following this meeting. In discussion, we also clarified that the rationale for the policy should mention the value of this option for students experiencing a “catastrophic” semester due to medical or family issues, as well as for those simply experimenting with courses outside their major.
 1. *Deadline for applying for S/U grading*: Council approved using the Withdrawal deadline near the end of the semester to allow students maximal time to determine if the option needed. This also allows for a single, University-wide deadline for processing simplicity.
 2. *Grading system and breakpoints*: Much discussion what the best way would be to distinguish grades of C- and above, as required for the State GtPathways program. Options included using “S-” for the D grades and “S” for the C- benchmark. Ultimately consensus was to maintain the system adopted for pandemic, with “S” reserved for grades at C- or above; “S-” for all the D grades; and “U” for a grade of F. Grades of “S” and “S-” award credit; a grade of “U” does not award credit.
 3. *Process suggested*: Faculty will assign grades as usual, and Registrar’s office will make the switch later for those students whose applications for S/U are approved. During the semester that a student has the S/U grading option approved, this action is final, and the student cannot switch back to a letter grade.
 4. *Effect of switching majors on S/U grades*: The question is whether students who later change their major (minor or certificate) that includes a course for which they once received an S grade

must have that grade changed. HLC insists on equal treatment for all students, so this decision must be University-wide, not left to each unit. Transcripts of students requesting a change of major or minor will be checked to see if changes are needed. If it is the case that the student later switches into a major, minor, or certificate program for which a grade is required, the S/U will revert to the original letter grade. This would be the only change of the S/U grade allowed.

5. Moore moved to approve the package of changes as discussed; Markowski seconded. Council voted 8-0 to approve and send to APC.

- **Policies on expectations for Canvas use** – Tabled.

New Business

None. In the next meeting, we will probably have some INDS curriculum proposals to review.

Comments to the Good of the Order – None.

Adjournment – 5:05 pm

Next meeting – November 29