

## ACADEMIC POLICIES COMMITTEE

Monday, September 30, 2024

2:30p.m. | UC Council Room

### *Minutes*

**Present:** Allen, Benedict, Bermudez, Cieminski, Couch, de la Torre, Heiny, Kyle, Larson, Leatherman, Leonard, Matchett, Muller, Newman, Paytoe Gbayee

**Zoom:** Parker

**Absent:**

Call to Order 2:32pm

Approval of the Agenda approved without objection moved by Larson, seconded by Leatherman

Approval of the September 16, 2024, meeting minutes approved without objection

Announcements/Chair's Report (Newman) – Everyone should have received an email about the Academic Policies report for the Faculty Senate Newsletter. Please review and send any feedback by the end of the day. If anyone is interested in doing a senator spotlight for the newsletter let Britney Kyle know. The provost's and registrar's office has been approved to move forward with the 4-day finals week.

### Reports from Councils

Graduate Council (Cieminski) – Graduate Council (GC) had their first meeting last week. There is one open seat on the council. There will be a few items that will be brought to Academic Policies in the future such as the low GPA policy. There is more interest in 4+1's (Accelerated Programs), Jeri-Anne Lyons plans to work with the Undergraduate council and Nancy Matchett to see where everyone is with that. GC discussed short courses and what a full load will entail. Cieminski wanted to determine which committee—Academic Policies or Faculty Welfare—should address BPM 1-1-503 regarding amorous relationships.

Liberal Arts Council (Muller) – Liberal Arts Council meets with Kim Black tomorrow, and HLC will likely meet with LAC during the visit. All CCC chairs are working with units in the final stages of syllabus review. We will also conduct follow-ups on the first year of direct assessment for relevant courses.

Professional Education Council (Paytoe Gbayee) – The Professional Education Council (PEC) is adding a list of things to their bylaws and getting ready for accreditation visit.

Undergraduate Council (Larson) – The Undergraduate Council (UGC) held its first meeting and is getting new members up to speed. Work from the curriculum working group is continuing, with a focus on micro-credentials and badging. The term for the Schulze Chair will end soon, and UGC is working with Matchett on organizing that. Discussions about AI policies are emerging; the provost wants faculty to include their expectations regarding AI in their syllabi, but no further guidance has been provided yet.

Student Government Association (Bermudez) – The Student Government Association had their

first training session yesterday, and the first legislative reading will take place today. They are one seat away from having a full council. SGA is hoping to resume work on establishing a Fall Break.

### Special Reports

### Special Order

### Unfinished Business

- **Curriculum Standards Recommendations (folder with documents)**
  - [Working CWG document and recommendations](#)
  - [Current program credit hour requirements](#)
  - [Drafted new language for the catalog](#)
  - [Programs affected by change in this language](#)
- **CLEAN DRAFT:**
  - Benedict agrees with the 15 credits due to its rigor.
  - 30 credit hours is not defined but should be
    - When the curriculum working group (CWG) looked at other school most of them distributed the 30 credits across the entire degree
    - If we apply the requirement across the entire degree, we may want to look 300-level and 400-level courses that do not require pre-requisites.
    - And 120 credits are the accepted minimum which is not established by HLC and federal guidelines.
  - However, Leatherman stated that majority of these programs don't hit the 50% threshold.
  - According to Larson these recommendations looked like something other institutions would have.
  - Is there balance in making the major change to 15 and other requirements?
    - To maintain rigor, a threshold of 50% would need to be implemented.
  - Some programs are so constrained by requirements that they don't have room for electives at the 300 level. For example, the pre-med program has courses required for medical school admission, and some courses don't receive funding.
    - It's important to remain transfer friendly.
    - Some 100-level courses are absolutely required.
  - If we remove courses, we will have a lot of hidden credits.
  - Something to keep in mind is if we decide to make the requirement apply across the degree, it doesn't have to be 50%. We can define it based on what's appropriate.
  - Do we have data that a UNC degree is not as rigorous?
    - Graduate schools are known to evaluate rigor, and some students have been denied admission as a result.
    - It was suggested that we better prepare students and advise them on how to remain competitive
  - Nancy suggested that a percentage rule may not be ideal for in-major requirements.
    - Some programs have more vertical and structurally complex requirements.
  - What is the goal of this policy?

- Find a solution that aligns with current practices
      - Rigor needs to be considered because some courses seem to be less rigorous compared to other schools in Colorado
    - We are tasked with making recommendations.
      - We should review how other institutions define their degrees and ensure clear definitions for what we are doing.
  - Next steps:
    - Have we reached a consensus of 15 credits?
      - The possibility of 18 credits will be considered.
    - If we are trying to increase the rigor, we should focus on the 30 credit hours instead
      - 30 credits are de-facto, instead of 30 credits change to 36 credits.
    - Strengthen residence requirements and remove “UNC”, this language is more transfer unfriendly
    - How does this affect financial aid?
      - Depends on circumstances
    - A question to consider is, what makes it a bachelor's degree? More seat time or level?
  - Over the next two weeks, we will begin reaching out to various programs to start discussions.
    - Newman will be contacting programs and will share feedback.

#### Unfinished Business on hold

- **University Libraries Unit Organization**
  - Receiving updates
- **Academic Calendar: Fall Break**
- **Four-Day Final Exam schedule**
  - [Final Exam Schedule resolution.docx](#)
  - [Faculty Senate resolution to support](#)

#### New Business

- **MCB Coursera Microcredentials**
  - Keiko is actively working on it and Kyle suggested she look into receiving impact statements.
  - It was suggested to look at all this in a different way instead of such a negative way
- **General Education Foundation Skills Credential (i.e., LAC “badge”)**
  - [CDHE recommendation](#)
- **Micro-credentials/badges**

#### Comments to the Good of the Order

Adjournment 3:55pm

Harmony Newman  
Chair