

UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL

October 13, 2020, 3:30pm

Remote Meeting - Zoom

MINUTES

Present: Castro, Couch, Dineen, Franklin, Hawkinson, Klein (Park), Matchett, McClatchey, Medina, Park, Rose, Tucker, Withrow

Absent: Fitzpatrick, Fulton, Somero, Thompson, Zukiewicz

Guests: Clavir, Freeman, Torrez

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:33pm.

Approval of Agenda

Approved without objection.

Approval of Minutes 09-01-20

Approved without objection.

Chair's Report/Announcements (Dineen)

- The GOAL proposal for participation in commencement has been approved by APC and the Faculty Senate.
- Name in Use catalog language update – information item
 - Tobias Guzman and Stephen Loveless worked with the Registrar's Office to revise the Name Change sections of the UG and GR catalogs, changing "Preferred Name" to "Name in Use" and adding sections for Pronoun in Use and Special Characters in Name Usage.

DISCUSSION:

- Tucker recommends making the Dean of Students Office the central reporting point. Once a report is made, DOS can consult and coordinate with the CDO and other offices as needed.
- Matchett recommends following up with APC and the Senate Chair on how to move forward with Senate review.

Reports from Councils

- **LAC** (Matchett) – Reminder that all UG programs must update their catalog narrative to reflect the changes in the new Liberal Arts Curriculum. The Council is accepting course proposals for review; submissions for LAC course review are due in the curriculum workflow by November 1st.
- **Assessment Council** (Park) – The Assessment Council reviewed applications for ILO assessment and will finalize ILO documents next month.
 - Torrez – Awardees will be notified and published in UNC Today.

Special Reports

- **Commencement speaker update**
 - As there were no nominations this year, we worked with Teresa Castro and Student Senate to identify a commencement speaker.
 - Yessica Rodriguez will be the Fall 2020 UG commencement speaker.
 - Thank you to Student Senate for the crucial help in selecting a student speaker!

Unfinished Business

New Business

• **Fresh Start for Returning Students program revisions**

- Chris Freeman provided background information and data on Fresh Start and presented changes to the Returning Students portion of the policy.
- Main change: Reduce the number of years required to qualify for the Fresh Start for Returning Students program from 5 years to 3 years.
 - Under the current policy, students must have grades of “C-“ or lower that are at least five years old based on their most recently completed semester at UNC.
 - Only absence is required to qualify; there are no additional criteria.
 - Reducing the number of years from five to three will widen recruitment of former students who are eager to return and finish their degree.
 - Without this change, students who might otherwise return to UNC are more likely to pursue their degrees elsewhere.

DISCUSSION:

- Changing to three years would better align UNC’s policy with those at other institutions that have timeframes shorter than five years.
- Previously earned grades of “C-“ and lower (below the 2.0 threshold) are removed from GPA calculation, which pulls students off academic probation or suspension.
 - Fresh Start applies to all previously earned grades of “C-“ or lower; students may not choose which grades to keep or drop.
 - The letter grades themselves remain on the transcript with a note indicating that Fresh Start has been applied.
 - Grades of “C” and better continue to factor into GPA.
- The Fresh Start option is available only for Undergraduates; it is not an option at the Graduate level.
- The proposed changes are only for the Returning Students section; Fresh Start for Freshman remains the same.
- If approved, the change would be effective starting Fall 2021.
- McClatchey recommended updating the dates in the example in the 2nd bullet:
 - For example, grades from fall 2014 2016 and previous would be eligible for Fresh Start after completion of fall 2016 2019. A student would be eligible to take classes spring 2017 2020).
 - Freeman accepts the recommendation

MOTION: McClatchey – It is moved to approve the Fresh Start for Returning Students policy changes as discussed.

VOTE: Approved by voice vote.

• **UGC representative to LAC**

- No volunteers

• **UGC representative to PEC**

- Nicole Withrow volunteered as the UGC representative to PEC.

- UGC approves Withrow's appointment without objection.

Comments to the Good of the Order

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30pm.

Rachel Dineen
Chair

Betsy Kienitz
Recording Secretary