

## UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL

September 14, 2021 | 3:30pm

UC Council Room

MINUTES

**Present:** Couch, Denny, Dineen, Franklin, Fulton, Henson, Klein, Matchett, Park, Somero, Tucker, Welsh

**Absent:** Benavidez, Rose, Weber, Zukiewicz

**Guest:** Clavir

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:30pm.

### Approval of Agenda

Approved without objection.

### Approval of Minutes 04-13-21

Approved without objection.

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

- Introductions of council members

### Reports from Councils

- **LAC** (Denny) – They approved their bylaws to send to Codification for review. They are developing assessment plans and implementing indirect assessment of LAC courses next Spring by reviewing syllabi for compliance with current criteria.
- **Assessment Council** (Dineen) – Projects for the year include revising institutional assessment plans. Dineen has some scheduling conflicts with Assessment Council; we may need another UGC representative.

### Special Reports

#### • **Commencement speaker update**

- Fulton will serve as the lead for the commencement speaker subcommittee.
- Franklin and Klein volunteer to serve on the subcommittee.
- The Council will streamline the application process:
  - Application page with spaces for students to
    - Describe campus activities/involvement
    - Describe their interest in representing their class as speaker
    - List two academic reference
  - Speech approximately 3 minutes in length
- Christina Edwards will promote the call for applications through campus and social media.
- Once they have their first graduation meeting, we'll have a clearer idea of the number of ceremonies and speakers needed.
- We can help by spreading the word to colleagues and encouraging students to apply.

#### • **Schulze Chair announcement**

- Matchett provided an overview of the new chairship: Robert O. Schulze Chair for Honors & Interdisciplinary Studies.
  - Combined chair role for both the Interdisciplinary Studies program and the Honors program
  - Three-year commitment in a 0.4-0.6 FTE faculty position housed in Academic Engagement/Undergraduate Studies
    - Workload includes chair service and instruction of some Honors courses.
    - The remaining FTE will be in their home unit.
    - Work over summer may be required.
  - Candidates must be full-time UNC faculty, preferably tenured faculty with experience teaching Honors and/or interdisciplinary courses.
  - Evaluation of the faculty member in this role remains in their home department.
    - UGC and the Honors Faculty Advisory Board can also provide feedback to home unit.
- Faculty from UGC and the Honors Faculty Advisory Board will make their recommendations to the AVP of Undergraduate Studies regarding the selection of the Schulze Chair.
  - Review of applications will occur later this semester.
  - We are anticipating a January 2022 or May 2022 start date.

### Unfinished Business

#### ● **Prior UNC degree credit applicability**

- Couch is asking UGC for guidance on a matter relating to an appeal from a student who wants to use previous degree requirements to fulfill requirements for a new degree.
  - Currently there is no explicit policy language surrounding how credits earned in a prior UNC degree may or may not be applied to a new program of study.
  - Students must complete a minimum of 30 additional, unique credits to qualify for a 2<sup>nd</sup> bachelor's degree; however, the policy is silent on whether (or how many) credits must be applicable to the major (or elective).
  - Students cannot complete two bachelor's degrees in the same field of study since there are not enough unique courses to qualify as two degrees.
    - Example: Completing Marketing and Finance programs would result in one degree with multiple emphases/majors.
- Matchett can investigate what may be required for HLC purposes.
- The Registrar's Office can check what policies other institutions have for such situations.

#### ● **S/U grading option**

- Dineen reported that APC is asking UGC to provide policy recommendations regarding a permanent S/U grading option for the undergraduate catalog.

- An S/U grading option would be an addition to the existing grading policy.
- Graduate Council will consider whether S/U fits into Graduate level studies.
- UGC will form a subcommittee to examine wholistically the potential impacts of implementing an S/U option.
  - Dineen will serve as the lead for the S/U subcommittee.
  - Denny volunteers to join the subcommittee.
  - The Registrar's Office will assist in a support capacity.
  - The subcommittee will also draw feedback from areas outside UGC, such as Advising.

### New Business

- **Goals/Priorities for 21/22** - *The following are potential topics UGC could take on this year; let's discuss and set priorities for the coming year.*
  - Interfaith calendar
    - Interfaith calendars support awareness about what holidays may be impacting certain student groups.
  - Syllabus statements
    - CETL posts recommended syllabus statements online.
    - Perhaps there are other topics/issues for which syllabus statements could be created, such as interfaith calendar, attendance policies, etc.
  - Attendance policies
    - UGC discussed this topic briefly last Spring when Student Senate brought it to our attention (see minutes dated 4/13/21).
    - Attendance expectations vary widely across disciplines and individual faculty.
    - Importance of participation versus attendance: there are other ways to show engagement beside simply being present.
    - DRC may also be interested in attendance policies.
  - Interdisciplinary teaching
  - Policies surrounding expectations for Canvas use
    - Faculty are not required to use Canvas or post grades there. However, it's common practice at many universities to have minimum standards for Canvas use.
    - CETL provides good recommendations for how to package online instruction.
    - Students and faculty can both benefit from knowing expectations and where/how to find important course information.
    - Standardization of Canvas use may be a good item to consider.
  - Expectations around instruction
    - Expectations for course modality (online, hybrid, and face-to-face) have changed a lot since the pandemic.
    - There are questions of how to address and meet student needs.

Comments to the Good of the Order

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm.

Scott Franklin  
Chair

Betsy Kienitz  
Recording Secretary