

UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL

Minutes of October 11, 2022

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

Guest – Corinne Wieben

Absences – B. Blair; S. Franklin, S. Rose; M. Somero

Call to Order – Chair Welsh began at 3:30 pm.

Approval of Agenda – Time-sensitive New Business was moved ahead of Unfinished Business.

Approved without objection.

Approval of Minutes from September 13, 2022 – Approved without objection.

Chair's Report/Announcement (*Welsh*)

- APC has approved an info sheet regarding the proposed block scheduling reform. This has been sent to all unit leaders for discussion.

Reports from Councils

- **LAC** (*Youngs*) – Direct, course-embedded assessment of LAC courses will be based on existing rubrics and utilize course materials on Canvas.
- **Assessment Council** (*Markowski*) – Last meeting was devoted mainly to getting acquainted with the new Director of Assessment.

Special Report (*Welsh*)

- **Commencement speakers update** – Three student speakers have been identified to present at all UG commencements.

New Business

- **Proposal to retain some MIND courses already in LAC (MIND 180, 181, 182, 185) and convert them to the HON prefix** – This falls under UGC purview in its role as curriculum committee for intercollegiate programs, like Honors. Goal is to approve this request to move it along to the actual approving body, the LAC Council.

Wieben presented the rationale for retaining select LAC/MIND courses to enable students to better use LAC credits to progress toward Honors. The 4 courses chosen all are regularly taught, and the faculty would like to continue doing so using the original interdisciplinary perspective of MIND. They would all be renamed with the HON prefix.

Honors will set up three tracks for recognition of achievement: a First-Year Experience (6 credits) for people to earn recognition for completing 2 of the LAC/HON courses; a full Honors program (adding 11 credits of Honors courses, 5 of which are for the Capstone Project itself); and a Capstone only option, with just those 5 credits. One goal of the FYE option is to attract students otherwise unable to take any Honors courses because of disciplinary programs that allow few or no electives. Bobo commented that for busy students and double-majors, this would still be a barrier, and that it would be desirable to have some upper-division discipline-based courses apply toward Honors.

The voting members of UGC voted unanimously in favor of the proposal as presented. Matchett suggested, and the committee concurred, that the new HON-named syllabuses be made

less specific with respect to modes of instruction, to enable more flexibility for future faculty to adapt the courses to their own styles.

Unfinished Business

- **S/U grading option** – APC has requested additional recommendations from UGC. One item concerns the deadline for applying for S/U grading. The consensus of the membership was that a later deadline (Withdrawal deadline versus Drop deadline) would help both those students using the S/U to take “experimental” classes and those coping with personal crises during the term that limited their ability to succeed.

A second issue concerns what to do about students who take a course S/U but later switch to that major. Discussion began on this topic but no resolution yet. The key question for is whether the “S” would be used for grades only equivalent to C– or higher, of whether the “S” would apply to any passing grade, with an “S+” designation reserved for the C– minimum.

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

Comments to the Good of the Order – announcements regarding the McNair Scholars program and a program related to aerospace curriculum updates will be coming.

Adjournment – 5:00 pm