

## **2024 UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL**

Oct 8, 2024 | 3:30pm

UC Council Room

MINUTES

Present: Couch, du Bray, Sonnentag, Larson

Zoom: Clavir, Matchett, Moore, Muralimanohar, Sedinger, Zimmerman

Absent: Gottlieb, Guetler,

### **Call to Order 3:34pm**

**Approval of Agenda** approved without objection

**Approval of Minutes from 9.10.24** approved without objection

**Chair's Report/Announcements (Larson) – The Academic Policies Committee will be moving forward with the 4-day finals week proposal, discussions on micro-credentials and curriculum recommendations continue.**

### **Reports from Councils**

LAC (Matchett) – Last week, the LAC met with Kim Black to discuss preparations for the upcoming HLC visit. Some HLC reviewers are expected to meet with LAC members, and in anticipation, the committee discussed potential strengths and weaknesses that the HLC might address. As of now, no courses have been submitted for inclusion in the review.

Assessment Council (Sonnentag) - No report

### **Special Reports**

#### **New Business**

- Commencement Speakers – Undergraduate Ceremonies
  - The graduation office is requesting support in providing feedback on student-submitted materials, particularly regarding the screening process.
    - Moore, Sedinger, and Muralimanohar have volunteered to assist with the speaker selection process.
    - It was discussed that conduct checks should be included in the process if they are not already.
      - Sonnentag has offered to assist with conduct checks.
    - Matchett will connect with Anna to discuss the Fall ceremony process and will follow up with the three volunteers.
  - Clarification is needed on whether UGC wishes to take an active role in this process moving forward.
    - The question of whether UGC should have formal input in the selection process and whether there is faculty representation in the graduation office was raised.

- If UGC serves as the faculty voice in this process, the UGC should have a role in this selection process.
  - This year UGC will continue its involvement with the selection of the undergraduate commencement speaker. Matchett encourages the UGC to draft a process outlining their role, as the graduation office would ultimately oversee the speaker selection.
- Badges/Micro-credentials – please register for [this free webinar](#) if possible. 12:00 p.m. MDT, Oct 17.
  - MCB is exploring a partnership with Coursera, allowing students to take certain courses for free (funded by a donor).
    - Upon completion, students receive a badge showcasing their new skill, acting as an additional assignment in the course.
    - This could help students demonstrate extra competencies to potential employers.
  - MCB is particularly interested in industry-developed micro-credentials
  - There is high interest in micro-credentials at the dean level.
  - CU has developed a system for micro-credentials, managed by their registrar and using specific software that is CU-branded.
  - Are there discussions about micro-credentials within other programs?
    - Some programs have had some conversations about the topic while others haven't yet.
  - Does UNC accept Coursera courses for credit?
    - Current policies specify that UNC only accepts credits from accredited universities and new policies may need to be developed to address this.
  - Providing badges from Coursera could add value for students, particularly in areas not currently covered by UNC courses.
    - This approach could serve as a practical alternative to traditional reading assignments, offering hands-on experience.
    - These micro-credentials give students an advantage by equipping them with industry-relevant skills.
  - How long will students have this resource?
    - The initial pilot will run for a year, with future discussions to determine continued use.
  - Will this be available for minors? Or student outside of MCB?
    - It's currently unclear if the program will extend to minors or students outside of MCB, though this will be considered.
    - It was stated that micro-credentials could benefit non-business students as well, and initial conversations across departments suggest broad support.
  - There is interest in providing broader access, as LinkedIn Learning has a limited offering. Expanding micro-credentials campus-wide could save costs and provide more comprehensive training.
- [Require Experiential Component for ALL UNC undergraduate Students](#)
  - As part of Phase III of the strategic plan aims to enhance career readiness.
  - The following questions were raised:

- Would it make sense for all UNC students to complete an applied learning experience?
  - Would this be viable for the other group of students that don't have this requirement?
- The goal is to decide by the end of Phase III.
- du Bray noted that based on her experience with advisees, many students cannot afford to take summer internships or experiential learning, as they need to work outside school.
  - Matchett proposed a potential option to exempt students in specific situations where an experiential component may not be feasible.
  - Sedinger agrees with du Bray's statement because many English majors, for example, work 30-50 hours per week, making additional applied experiences challenging.
- It's necessary to determine what qualifies as an applied learning experience and how these experiences will be credited.
  - Keeping flexibility in mind will be helpful
- Part of Phase III; career readiness for Strategic plan
- Would It make sense for all UNC students had an applied learning experience?
  - Would this be viable for the other group of students that don't have this?
  - Goal is to have determination by end of phase III
- Larson encourages members to share the proposal with their departments and send any feedback to him for discussion at the next meeting.

#### **Unfinished Business**

- AI Policy for UNC Campus

#### **Comments to the Good of the Order**

**Adjournment 4:50pm**