**Note:** This updated version of the UEPCC minutes from October 4 clarify the different between adjunct appointments and visiting appointments in relation to the policy that those with adjunct appointments may teach only one course or the equivalent per semester. See this page for more information: <https://clas.uiowa.edu/sites/default/files/CLAS%20Visiting-Adjunct%20Appointment%20Guidelines-AH%20revision(1).pdf>

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Undergraduate Educational Policy and Curriculum Committee

**Minutes**

Thursday, October 4, 2018

Attending:        Jill Beckman; Helena Dettmer (Chair); Matthew Gilchrist; Kathryn Hall (staff); Meena Khandelwal; Rebekah Kowal; Jerald Moon; Ana Rodríguez-Rodríguez; Tristan Schmidt (student member); Amy Strathman; Shaun Vecera

Absent:              Anita Jung; Rebekah Kowal

1. Joe Kearney, Interim Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Professor, Department of Computer Science, met with UEPCC members for an informal question and answer session. The discussion began with a review of the new policy allowing only one course per semester to be taught by an instructor with an adjunct appointment. This policy grew out of the goal of providing full benefits for those at 50% time or over and, whenever possible, to ensure a living wage through fulltime employment. Visiting appointments in the past often did not have benefits and depended on the department or program’s ability to fund them, with inconsistencies across the College. Those positions now come with full benefits. According to Iowa law, teaching courses as an adjunct is consider “piece work” and does not require benefits. When possible, adjunct appointments perhaps can be moved to fulltime instructional positions in order to ensure fulltime employment with benefits. However, such a change under the policy requires a search while hiring an adjunct instructor does not.

UEPCC members then discussed morale issues in the College and some of the inherent tensions of living within a tight budget while trying to provide an engaged-student classroom experience using best pedagogical practices. Additionally, increased class sizes and the increasing needs of students also contribute to the difficulty of balancing research and service with teaching. Joe Kearney pointed out that tenure-track faculty loads by both number of courses taught and by credit hours have remained stable over the years. Credit hours produced in CLAS have increased in part because of the hiring of more instructional faculty while at the same time TA appointments and tenured lines have decreased. As a result, CLAS credit-hour production has increased while the tenure-track load has been stable. This change in hiring practices occurred in part to save money while increasing course offerings, which was necessary during the recent years of record enrollments. President Harreld has now reduced these enrollment goals to a more manageable size. UEPCC members pointed out that there are hidden costs to employing instructional faculty; if net revenues decrease from grants, for example, the research rankings of the institution could be in jeopardy. This might threaten enrollments and funding further. There was agreement that long-term planning about the best ratio among related types of positions was crucial since there are consequences from these choices.

The role of better identifying the College as a distinctive entity was also discussed. Because of the College’s size and complexity, it can be hard to build collegiate identification among faculty and students, with a negative impact on donations sometimes occurring. Overcoming this through strategic communications is perhaps not realistic because of the cost of these outreach efforts. UI is now in the processing of defining itself as a “destination university”; online education could be included in this definition, with reasonable growth resulting but without an impact on campus resources.

The conversation then turned to the budget model, which has moved from one based on enrollments and credit hours to one formulated by the number of majors served. However, credit hours are still important in the budget, though to a lesser extent, since if students take courses outside of the primary college, the primary college pays the college administering the course a related fee per credit hour. The previous budget model based on enrollments and credit hours created some competition among various UI colleges and departments. Similar effects may be seen in the new model because of these payments to other colleges; however, this may not be an issue since students from all colleges routinely take courses in other colleges, with the funding perhaps balancing out. Joe Kearney ended the conversation by suggesting there were three main areas for CLAS to address in the future: Maintaining the rich and diverse culture of the College; continuing to address financial concerns; and, given the size of the College and its related communication issues, examining whether or not there are ways to organize the college into sub-structures that would sharpen the identity and increase the visibility of components of the college while facilitating communication and collective planning.

1. The minutes from September 27 were approved as written.
2. The following courses were recommended by the General Education Curriculum Committee for GE status; these recommendations were endorsed by UEPCC.

* CLSA:2127 (JPNS:2127) Global Manuscript Cultures (These new numbers are effective for Spring 2019; the course is currently numbered as CLSA 3127/JPNS 3127.)  
  **Program Three Gen Ed - Students admitted for Summer 2017 and after:**   
  Historical Perspectives  
  **Program Two Gen Ed - Students admitted for Summer 2011 to Spring 2017:**   
  Historical Perspectives
* ITAL:2770 The Mafia and the Movies

**Program Three Gen Ed - Students admitted for Summer 2017 and after:**   
International and Global Issues  
**Program Two Gen Ed - Students admitted for Summer 2011 to Spring 2017:**   
International and Global Issues

* + POLI:1950 Introduction to the Politics of Religion   
    Program Three Gen Ed - Students admitted for Summer 2017 and after:  
    Diversity and Inclusion
* RELS:2620 Politics, Sex, and the Bible

Program Three Gen Ed - Students admitted for Summer 2017 and after:  
Diversity and Inclusion

1. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ana Rodríguez-Rodríguez  
Associate Professor, Department of Spanish and Portuguese  
Secretary for UEPCC