The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Undergraduate Educational Policy and Curriculum Committee

**Minutes**

Thursday, February 1, 2018

Attending: Helena Dettmer (Chair); Steve Duck; Andrew Forbes; Kathryn Hall (staff); Cornelia Lang; Mary Noonan; Ana Rodríguez-Rodríguez; Rachel Williams

Absent: Meena Khandelwal; Jerald Moon; Tristan Schmidt

1. The minutes from January 25 were approved as written.
2. David Ryfe, Professor and Director of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, discussed the School’s rationale for proposing the termination of the BS option in Journalism and Mass Communication. Students find the BA/BS choice confusing, especially since the coursework required for the BA and the BS is identical. Instead of completing additional journalism courses, students earn the BS by finishing a second BS outside of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication (JMC) or by completing a substantial concentration of courses closely aligned with a BS program. The BS in Journalism and Mass Communication is awarded based on the completion of this second BS major or related BS course concentration. Assessment of the major and the tracking of alumni success has found no difference between earning the BA and the BS. The existing BS could be enhanced to distinguish it from the BA by the development of new courses and by hiring related faculty, but the School has other strategic goals. Removal of the BS option will help streamline and focus the curriculum. The JMC curriculum committee and the faculty of the School have thus recommended the closure of the BS. Any student with the option declared before the proposed closure in Fall 2018 would be allowed to finish the degree. At the end of the discussion, UEPCC recommended closure of the BS program to the College. The proposal will next be discussed in Faculty Assembly, with final approval required by the Board of Regents.
3. UEPCC reviewed current [academic misconduct policies and procedures](https://clas.uiowa.edu/faculty/undergraduate-teaching-policies-resources/academic-misconduct), discussing the difference between suspension as the result of academic misconduct and [dismissal because of low scholarship](https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/students-academic-policies/academic-probation). These two processes and their related policies share some fundamental steps and outcomes. UEPCC noted, however, that trying to streamline or coordinate the messaging of suspension and dismissal might not be feasible because of the different timelines involved for these two processes. Additionally, it is important to keep a student’s good standing as defined by GPA separate from academic misconduct to ensure fair and consistent treatment of students. Conversation then focused on students who have had at least one report of academic misconduct and who are on [academic probation](https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/students-academic-policies/academic-probation) because of low scholarship (i.e. the semester GPA, the UI cumulative GPA, and the overall cumulative GPA). Students on academic probation face dismissal after grades are posted if the semester GPA is not a 2.00 or higher or if the student has not otherwise earned good standing. Students with one reported offense for academic misconduct and with a low GPA and facing possible dismissal are particularly at risk. The committee brainstormed possible ways to intervene with this population in order to provide academic support. UEPCC recommended an academic coaching initiative to help these students build the academic skills needed for graduation. UEPCC also recommended starting with a small pilot program and assessing outcomes before expanding the initiative.
4. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Forbes   
Associate Professor, Department of Biology  
Secretary for UEPCC