The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Undergraduate Educational Policy and Curriculum Committee

Minutes

February 6, 2020

Attending: Helena Dettmer; Andrew Forbes; Eric Gidal; Kathryn Hall (staff); Anita Jung; Collin Kepner (student member); Rebekah Kowal; Brian Lai; Ana Rodríguez-Rodríguez; Jennifer Rogers; Shaun Vecera

Absent: David Ryfe

1. The minutes from January 30 were approved as written.
2. A discussion of the current draft of the CLAS Strategic Plan was led by David Cunning, Professor, DEO of Philosophy, Co-chair of the Strategic Planning Steering Committee; and by Shaun Vecera, Professor, Psychological and Brain Sciences, Co-chair of the Strategic Planning Steering Committee. UEPCC members expressed their appreciation of the committee’s efforts in the strategic planning process thus far and especially for the open forum listening sessions hosted by the committee. As the two co-chairs noted, the strategic plan went through numerous drafts based on feedback from the CLAS community, with the Strategic Planning Steering Committee gathering information first from the SWOT and Goals documents submitted by CLAS units during the fall semester. The two co-chairs then met a number of times over winter break with Sara Sanders, Associate Dean for Strategic Initiatives and Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Early in the spring semester, revisions reflecting the Provost’s top priorities were made by Dean Goddard in consultation with the Associate Deans and the Strategic Planning Steering Committee.  An initial draft was then submitted to the Provost in February. The UEPCC discussion focused particularly on the items falling under its purview, including student success, the relationship between faculty teaching and research, and how DEI practices might best permeate the College’s educational mission. UEPCC members reminded the co-chairs that the long tradition of faculty governance in the College generally meant that the CLAS Strategic Plan had been presented to Faculty Assembly.  Members then voiced concern that the plan was substantially revised since its distribution to the DEOs in January, removing input previously gathered that parlayed the College liberal arts mission into goals targeted toward student success, DEI, and the leveraging of faculty research into excellence in teaching. Some suggested that the plan lacked an intellectual or aspirational vision. Aligning the statements of the College’s vision and mission with the plan’s goals and strategies could help to clarify the intent of the document while making it more inclusive. The committee then provided specific feedback about how to better link the research mission with student success, clarifying the groups that will complete critical tasks while strengthening the mechanisms for tracking and crediting instructors who oversee experiential learning.
3. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebekah Kowal, Associate Professor and DEO, Department of Dance
Secretary for UEPCC