The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Undergraduate Educational Policy and Curriculum Committee

**Minutes**

Thursday, January 24, 2019

Attending: Jill Beckman; Helena Dettmer (Chair); Andrew Forbes; Matthew Gilchrist; Kathryn Hall (staff); Anita Jung; Meena Khandelwal; Rebekah Kowal; Ana Rodríguez-Rodríguez; Shaun Vecera

Absent: Jerald Moon; Tristan Schmidt

1. Members were introduced and welcomed to UEPCC for Spring 2019.
2. UEPCC members were appointed to UEPCC positions, as follows:
* UEPCC secretary, Anita Jung, Professor, Art and Art History
* Liaison to the Faculty Assembly Agenda Committee, Meena Khandelwal, Associate Professor, Anthropology, and Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies
* Liaison to the General Education Curriculum Committee, Matthew Gilchrist, Associate Professor of Instruction, Director of Ideal, Rhetoric
1. Helena Dettmer, Associate Dean and Chair of UEPCC, explained that CLAS is considering a review of the policy related to the number of UI credit hours required to earn an undergraduate major, a central component of the degree. Current CLAS policy for the major states that the “hours to complete a major should comprise a reasonable proportion of course work that must be taken in residence at the University of Iowa” (<https://clas.uiowa.edu/faculty/majors>).This definition, though vague, has worked well for many years, allowing each area offering a major to decide how many hours must be completed at UI. UEPCC members then discussed the many ways students are now earning credit before enrolling at UI, including through community college courses taken in high school and from credit-bearing exams. After high school, some students choose to enroll fulltime at a community college for financial reasons and transfer to UI with an AA degree while others attend a community college as a route to immediate employment but might come to UI in the future. Others complete the General Education requirements at a community college while concurrently enrolled at UI. Clearly, the needs of today’s students are complex. The multiple UI “residence requirements” currently in place were also briefly reviewed. These ensure the integrity of the degree granted by requiring that a certain number of hours must be completed at UI and in CLAS, with similar standards at accredited institutions nationwide. Still, these requirements are not specifically related to the number of UI hours required for a major. The minor, on the other hand, does have such standards in place.
2. Guest Alberto Segre, Professor, Chair and Gerard P Weeg Faculty Scholar in Informatics, spoke with the committee about the department’s majors, including Computer Science and Informatics, and the ratio of UI semester hours to transfer credits. Over the last several years, the department has discussed transfer issues and decided to mandate particular courses that must be taken at UI in order to ensure a student’s success in related courses in a sequence, with some of these courses at the advanced level. The department also added a minimum grade of C- to some prerequisites. These changes have clarified for students how to transfer successfully into these majors while encouraging students to achieve competency in a prerequisite before enrolling in a more challenging course.
3. Guest Tom Paulsen, Senior Associate Director, Outreach & Recruitment, UI Office of Admissions, updated the committee on the initiative from the Iowa Department of Education concerning transfer credits for the major awarded with the AA degree by an Iowa community college. The Transfer Major initiative mandates that a minimum of 18 s.h. for the major be completed at a community college in order for the word “major” to appear on the community college transcript. These programs will consist of a minimum of 18 discipline-specific or discipline-relevant core semester credits that align with a related baccalaureate program of study. These core courses may also satisfy General Education requirements. Transferability of each approved Transfer Major must align with the community colleges and at least one Iowa public university that offers an aligned baccalaureate program while ensuring that every course fulfills major program requirements. An executive committee, consisting of a member from the Department of Education, a number of Iowa community college presidents, and a BOR representative, is guiding the initiative. Tom Paulsen is the UI representative on the Transfer Major Steering Committee that has begun implementation of the initiative by reviewing related majors, a complex task because of differences in programs of study among the involved institutions. It will take some time to see how this initiative will proceed; Tom Paulsen will keep Dean Dettmer updated.  It was also stressed that according to the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, the transfer-in bachelor’s completion rate for public universities in Iowa is first in nation for the public-system state average. This achievement shows that past and current transfer practices in Iowa are very effective, with numerous transfer plans and advising available for transfer students.

[For related information on UI support for transfer students, see <https://admissions.uiowa.edu/academics/transfer-planning-resources>.]

1. Helena Dettmer noted that the discussion about CLAS policy related to the number of UI credit hours required to earn an undergraduate major will continue at the January 31 meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Jung
Professor, Art and Art History
Secretary for UEPCC