The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Undergraduate Educational Policy and Curriculum Committee

Minutes

Thursday, March 2, 2017

Attending: James Cremer; Helena Dettmer; Elena Gavruseva; Lena Hill; Meena Khandelwal; Cornelia Lang; Jerald Moon; Roland Racevskis; Jacob Simpson; Rachel Williams

Absent: Steve Duck; Kathryn Hall (staff)

1. Minutes from February 9 and February 16 were approved as amended.
2. There was further discussion of the proposal from Professor Alan MacVey, Director, Division of Performing Arts, for a certificate in music theatre. Professor MacVey suggested that the certificate could be open to students from outside of the Division of Performing Arts, but that the students would be required to audition for admission to the certificate program. The question was raised whether this program could be a track in the major or a minor. The committee suggested that the certificate proposal could be rewritten to unify the proposed program better and make it available to all students, with no restrictions on the major and no audition. The question was raised whether the 3.0 GPA requirement was appropriate within CLAS guidelines. The committee is overall supportive of the proposal but nonetheless has concerns that will need to be discussed at a future meeting with Professor MacVey.
3. The minor program in Health and the Human Condition, housed in the Department of Classics, has 9 students after 3 years. It was suggested that the minor could be better advertised so that students know, for example, that no ancient languages are required.
4. The issue of counting enrollments was discussed, and the question was raised whether UEPCC should make a formal proposal to the Office of the Provost to change the way enrollments are counted. It is a problem nationwide, and the University of Iowa could be in a leadership position to pursue solutions. The question was raised whether the discussion should take place at the level of the Associate Dean or of the Provost in a future meeting of the UEPCC.
5. Andrew Beckett, Assistant Dean in the University College, provided updates on UI Living-Learning Communities (LLC). In 2013, the decision was made to put every student in a LLC. There is now an advisory committee for LLCs that is reviewing this choice and how the LLCs function. One objective is to align more courses with the content of each LLCs, perhaps requiring enrollment in these courses. Around 25-30% of students in the LLCs are currently enrolled in such courses, which means that over half of students are in an LLC without an academic department or course associated with it. There is a sense that too many LLCs were initially created and that students were choosing LLCs based on what dormitory they were housed in. The question was raised whether students should still be required to join a LLC or if they might opt in according to their interests. There might be a combination of LLCs geared toward an academic discipline, on the one hand, and more generic LLCs, on the other. First-Year Seminars might be used as common courses; usually 25-30 FYSs factor into LLCs. In the future, Housing will assign lodging so that students are not choosing a LLCs simply because it is housed in the student’s top dorm choice. Assessment of issues such as retention and quality of student life has been carried out in the form of surveys.
6. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roland Racevskis   
Professor, Department of French and Italian  
Secretary for UEPCC