The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Undergraduate Educational Policy and Curriculum Committee

**Minutes**

Thursday, March 7, 2019

Attending: Helena Dettmer (Chair); Jill Beckman; Andrew Forbes; Matthew Gilchrist; Kathryn Hall (staff); Ana Rodríguez-Rodríguez; Tristan Schmidt

Absent: Anita Jung; Meena Khandelwal; Rebekah Kowal; Jerald Moon; Shaun Vecera

1. The minutes from February 28, 2019 were approved as written.
2. Helena Dettmer, Chair, reminded UEPCC members that the committee would not meet on March 14 or March 21 because of Spring Break and related travel plans of its members.
3. An informal discussion about a draft proposal for a new track in the Biology Master of Science (MS) program was discussed with Diane Slusarski, DEO and Professor, Department of Biology and Erin Irish, Associate Professor, Department of Biology. The Department of Biology requested feedback from UEPCC on this graduate program proposal in part because this track is being designed to help students who have recently graduated with a UI major in Biology. The proposed track is a one-year program to help undergraduates develop additional research and communication skills while preparing for a professional program or a related first career in industry research. Such positions, for example, require a Master of Science degree with lab and research course work but not at the level of an academic Ph.D. program. The track will provide advanced course work for students not able to take such classes in the senior year because of their late entry into the biology major. The program will also offer students additional preparation for medical school or other health science professional programs. The track in the MS requires 30 s.h. of course work, with research/internship experiences and a thesis. UEPCC members agreed that the track would provide a clear pathway for students hoping to prepare for a professional program or first job in a related career, with the thesis helping to polish writing skills while integrating research skills and the student’s extended knowledge of biology. The program will be small and at first will only allow admission to students who have graduated from UI in biology and thus whose work is known. After this pilot period and its assessment, the Department of Biology will decide on any needed future action. UEPCC recommended that Biology continue to look for a suitable name for the track since Advanced Studies seemed vague to the committee. The proposed program of study will need approval by the Graduate Educational Policy Committee before moving to the Graduate Council in the Graduate College for consideration.
4. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Helena Dettmer  
Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs and Curriculum, Professor, Classics  
UEPCC Secretary pro tem