The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Undergraduate Educational Policy and Curriculum Committee

**Minutes**

Thursday, October 11, 2018

Attending: Jill Beckman; Helena Dettmer (Chair); Matthew Gilchrist; Kathryn Hall (staff); Anita Jung; Meena Khandelwal; Jerald Moon; Ana Rodríguez-Rodríguez; Tristan Schmidt (student member); Amy Strathman; Shaun Vecera

Absent: Rebekah Kowal

1. The minutes from October 4, 2018 were approved with one correction.
2. UEPCC endorsed the General Education Curriculum Committee’s recommendation for GE CLAS Core status for the course GHS:2000 (ANTH:2103) Introduction to Global Health Studies (3 s.h.) in the area of International and Global Issues.
3. Erin Herting, Director, Business & Financial Administration, reviewed the basics of the new UI budget model for UEPCC members. The former budget model was based on the number of semester credit hours generated while the new model uses tuition revenues allocated on the number of majors served by a college. The decision to move to the new model took around two years and began with an analysis of revenues and expenditures, resulting in a thorough economic analysis of the UI budget. This analysis shows the true cost of running UI and helps with long-term fiscal planning, which is essential, in part, because of the fluctuations in appropriations from the State of Iowa. The new clarity of the budget allows each college to see the amount it pays for items, including centralized services, and to plan for any reallocations back to the State. Because these funding sources are not dependable, it is important to decrease reliability on them, either by increasing tuition dollars received or by controlling costs. In terms of the implementation of the model, six new UI budget advisory committees meet twice each academic year to discuss related financial matters and requests.  The deans from each advisory committee present the recommendations to the Council of Deans and the President’s Cabinet. The deans have been well-educated in matters related to the budget and consult widely with the collegiate budget officers, with two serving on each advisory committee.

The discussion then turned to how the new budget model affects the budget of each CLAS department. Erin Herting assured members that a departmental budget is not dependent on the number of undergraduate majors each department produces; that is, CLAS is not “pushing” the UI budget model down to the departments. CLAS funding of departments will use a different plan that allows departments with fewer majors to be secure and to focus on the UI mission of teaching, research, and service. Departments might want to engage in fundraising whenever possible but even of more importance is to ensure that all courses have appropriate enrollments and are designed to engage and challenge students while providing the academic support needed. Even titles of courses and their descriptions can make a difference to a course’s fill rate. The CLAS reputation for excellence in the classroom is well-deserved, and its continuance is the best way to ensure that students become part of the CLAS academic community and graduate from Iowa. On the other hand, additional new minors and certificates will most likely have little impact on funding but interdisciplinary teaching and collaboration could become more important. Online offerings for new populations, such as non-traditional learners, might also be of consequence. Likewise, a new major offered by a college will allow it to receive a 100% of the funding resulting from that new major for two years. The new budget model also compensates a college teaching students with their UI collegiate home elsewhere. For example, if a CLAS student takes a course outside of CLAS, the College supports that enrollment by paying $201 per credit hour to the college administering the course. This may or may not, however, end in additional revenues to that college because of the cost of instruction. In some ways, these smaller costs and revenues make little difference and since they support the excellence of a UI education, they are worth their costs. The discussion ended with a reminder that personnel costs remain the largest expenditure for the College. These are fixed, recurring costs and must be paid regardless of fluctuations in revenues that are known to occur.

1. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Secretary for UEPCC