The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Undergraduate Educational Policy and Curriculum Committee

**Minutes**

Thursday, October 18, 2018

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

Absent: Rebekah Kowal; Meena Khandelwal; Jerald Moon

1. The revised minutes from October 4 and the minutes from October 11, 2018 were approved.
2. Members of the ACE Teaching Evaluation Committee visited with UEPCC to update them on the committee’s work to date. Wayne Jacobson, Director, Assessment, Office of the Provost; Cornelia Lang, Associate Professor, Physics, Departmental Associate Chair; Chair of GECC; and Kathryn Hall, Senior Director, CLAS, attended. The committee began meeting last spring, with one meeting held over the summer; the committee’s work should be completed by the end of the spring 2019 semester. One of the primary goals of the committee is to have higher response rates for the teaching evaluation forms. In CLAS, fewer than 50% of the forms are returned, perhaps in part because of the number of unique questions asked on the forms. A course that has a lecture, discussion, and lab, for example, can end up having more than 60 questions; this can be daunting for students at the end of the semester. Mitigating bias that appears in the forms is also crucial as is the goal of returning the evaluations to their original intent of improving the classroom experience. Because of the complexities and nuances of teaching, students alone should not be depended upon to give a professional teaching evaluation of an instructor that would be reliable enough for the tenure and promotion process. Other instruments should be used as well for these purposes. The large, campus-wide committee has now split into two subcommittees, with one looking at the wording of the ACE questions and the number of questions to be used, and the other subcommittee examining the best uses for the data collected and at alternative methods of collecting this data. Members of the committee will be happy to update UEPCC and others in the future about the committee’s progress. Kenneth Brown, Associate Dean, Undergraduate Program in Business in the Tippie College of Business, is Chair; questions may be addressed to him or to any of the committee’s members, which also includes Russell Ganim, Director, Division of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, and Nicholas Yablon, Associate Professor, History.
3. The CLAS World Languages General Education CLAS Core requirement for students with the BBA from Tippie wanting to earn a second major/degree from CLAS was next discussed with Kenneth Brown, Associate Dean, Undergraduate Program in Business. In particular, one student who left UI a number of years ago and returned to earn the BBA from Tippie in spring 2018 would now like to earn a BS in psychology from CLAS. The student has petitioned CLAS to allow him to graduate without the completion of the CLAS World Languages requirement since he already has completed one set of GE requirements for the BBA, the Bachelor of Business Administration. Ken Brown noted that if an exception could be made for this one student, perhaps others would then also return to UI to complete a second degree if receiving a similar exception. After the guest left, UEPCC discussed the exceptions that have already been made for this student and the committee questioned why the student might qualify for additional exceptions. For example, rather than completing the Tippie language requirement, the student was allowed to earn the degree without this requirement since it was not in place when the student first entered UI in the early 1980’s. CLAS likewise agreed to allow the student to complete only two semesters of World Languages rather than the required four required since two semesters was the standard in place at the time when the student first entered CLAS in the 1980’s to earn the BS degree. UEPCC members then discussed the issue of making additional exceptions for students in Tippie earning a BBA degree when all CLAS students or current students in the BBA program wanting to earn a second degree from CLAS would be expected to complete all GE CLAS Core requirements. The student has the choice of many languages, with Latin being very helpful for law school, the next step in the student’s academic plans. These two courses could have been completed within the student’s timeline for graduation. The committee could see no logical reason to make a GE CLAS Core World Languages exception for this student or for those who have already completed a BBA. CLAS policy states that to earn a degree, students must finish the General Education requirements, whether earning degrees concurrently or in succession.
4. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ana Rodríguez-Rodríguez
Associate Professor, Department of Spanish and Portuguese
Secretary for UEPCC