The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Undergraduate Educational Policy and Curriculum Committee

Minutes

September 13, 2018

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

1. The minutes from August 30, 2018 will be discussed on September 20. [Note: No meeting was held on September 6.]
2. The appointment of the liaison from UEPCC to the General Education Curriculum Committee (GECC) will be decided at future meeting.
3. Wayne Jacobson, Director of Assessment, Office of the Provost, met with the committee to request help (and the help of other faculty) with the Higher Learning Commission report. This report, known as the [Assurance Argument](https://uiowa.edu/accreditation/article/assurance-argument), represents the University of Iowa to the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) that is conducting the UI accreditation review. UI has a long history of accreditation and a strong track record of constant improvement, with the Assurance Argument and its attached documents helping to highlight these accomplishments as well as ongoing improvements and challenges. HLC representatives will read this report and then will decide how to focus its March 25-26 site visit, requesting meetings with those involved in particular areas of interest. Faculty are thus needed to give feedback on the Assurance Argument via “a feedback forum.” Faculty are especially needed and invited to participate in these forums to make sure the academic aspects of the report are thorough and accurate, with nothing left out and with as little redundancy as possible. The report must be transparent since the purpose of accreditation is to find vital ways to improve the institution. Those faculty members volunteering to give feedback will first attend an orientation about the accreditation process and then will gain access to the Assurance Argument. In three weeks, a second meeting will be scheduled to discuss the findings from the participants. Those reading the report will not focus on editing or proofreading but on the accuracy and thoroughness of the report’s content. Volunteers should have a strong grounding in academic matters at UI and a familiarity with the institution. Dates and times of the forums are at this link: <https://uiowa.edu/accreditation/article/feedback-forum>. Other ways to participate in the HLC process will be announced during the HLC [site visit](https://uiowa.edu/accreditation/article/site-visit).
4. UEPCC next discussed topics and questions appropriate to ask candidates for the position of CLAS dean, with the [CLAS Dean Search Committee](https://clas.uiowa.edu/dean-search/search-committee) requesting this input. Some of the areas of interest discussed by UEPCC members included the dean’s communication strategies and style; the importance of working within the existing UI culture of faculty governance, particularly involving this governance during times of change; how UI might rebuild tenure positions while also ensuring fairness of compensation and load for those in other roles, thus making sure that UI does not become a two-tiered system of labor; how one must and should maintain the comprehensive nature of CLAS, allowing faculty and students to cross academic borders and to experience both flexibility and powerful new relationships and ways of learning, encouraging students, for example, to pursue multiple and divergent interests and majors; how to create and communicate an inspiring and sustainable vision of CLAS while instituting pragmatic steps for implementation of this vision, helping the members of the College to work together rather than in silos; overcoming the lack of financial means through creativity, partnerships, and new ways of thinking; designing methods for strengthening student success while supporting faculty development of new pedagogies and practices that help students rather than assuming that faculty have the time and expertise to do so; compensating and encouraging excellent teaching, using multiple strategies to reverse the current tendency of seeing research and teaching as separate and as unequal; finding imaginative ways to create diversity in a deep and profound way, especially in the face of the obstacles that UI experiences as a small city in the Midwest, for example; developing funds and pipelines for recruiting both underrepresented faculty and students while remembering that support is needed to maintain a diverse community and to help it to grow.
5. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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