The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Undergraduate Educational Policy and Curriculum Committee

MINUTES

September 20, 2018

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

Absent: Meena Khandelwal; Ana Rodríguez-Rodríguez

1. The minutes from August 30 and September 13, 2018 were approved as written.
2. UEPCC members endorsed the recommendations of the General Education Curriculum Committee (GECC) for GE CLAS Core status for the following courses:
   1. *MICR:1006* *Small Wonders: Microbes in Our Lives*, Natural Sciences Non-Lab, 3 s.h. Basic principles of microbial world for non-science majors; introduction to bacteria, viruses, and fungi; how they differ from more complex cells; how they are found in every environment on earth and on every human body; their uses to benefit humans; their ability to cause illness in humans and animals.
   2. *THTR:1601 Theatre for Social Change*, Diversity and Inclusion, 3 s.h. The practice and methodology of community theatre as civic practice, with students and community partners creating related projects.
   3. *PSQF:2115 Introduction to Counseling Psychology* Social Sciences. Foundations of counseling psychology; theories, application, and work of counseling psychologists as applied today.
3. A proposal for a major in Sustainability (BS) was presented by David Bennett, Professor, DEO, Department of Geographical and Sustainability Sciences. The BS in Sustainability requires a minimum of 67 s.h. and addresses the various systems that interact with each other and as a result create environmental concerns. The major thus occupies a unique position and is different from majors focused on a particular branch of science or social science. The major also provides students with analytical tools and transferable skills, with a focus on communication, a necessary skill since solving any related sustainability problems requires the ability to communicate about these issues. The major is designed to equip students for a first career or for further graduate or professional studies in related areas. Discussion focused on the arrangement of the major’s electives, which will require advising to help with the student’s selection of courses. More structured tracks may be a future option. David Bennett next explained that a BA will not be offered because of the required number of science courses. Members then wondered if more emphasis could be placed on communication skills or if a writing course more particularly related to the core of the major would be more appropriate. This would be ideal, and as courses become available they will be added to this category. The role of the chemistry courses was then discussed as related to student preparation and topics covered. Finally, it was suggested that a student be allowed to complete a service-learning project as well as an internship or practicum. David Bennett noted that such projects are often done in Geography, an area that involves both the sciences and the humanities, with students pursuing service-learning opportunities. The proposal was recommended to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences for approval by UEPCC and next will move to the CLAS Faculty Assembly for discussion.
4. Proposals for two undergraduate-to graduate programs in the Master of Finance and the Master of Science in Business Analytics were presented by the following guests from the Tippie College of Business: Samuel Burer, Professor, Management Sciences; David Deyak, Assistant Dean, Full-time MBA Program; Amrita Nain, Associate Professor, Finance; and Jill Tompkins, Director, Student Services, Full-time MBA Program. The guests explained that the two Tippie U2G proposals were created in response to employers looking for personnel who also have strong communication and interpersonal skills. Currently, there are many openings in these fields without enough people to fill them. The proposed programs aim to close this gap by recruiting students from a range of majors outside of business programs. Both programs are very similar in their requirements. Students will apply in the junior year and in the senior year, if accepted, will use 15 s.h. of elective credit to complete half of the required Tippie graduate courses. These credits will also be applied to the undergraduate degree. Students will pay CLAS tuition, thus saving money while completing these initial requirements. Discussion then focused on how students without a background in finance or data analytics will acquire the needed skills to successfully finish the professional degree. The guests assured UEPCC members that the related courses teach learnable skills, with instructors understanding how to reach students without the needed background. Additionally, many of these skills are applied, with students gaining real world practice in them, especially during the required summer internship. UEPCC members suggested that it might be helpful for undergraduate students planning to apply to one of these U2G programs to give special consideration to the course taken for the Quantitative or Formal Reasoning (QFR) GE CLAS Core requirement and to other related General Education courses and or electives. This thoughtfully chosen course work might help students to be even more successful in these professional programs by improving their writing, communication, and leadership skills, for example. Helena Dettmer, Chair, UEPCC, reminded the committee that the Graduate Council will make any decision about approval of the two programs since CLAS already allows students to take graduate-level courses and to apply these credits to the undergraduate degree. In addition to economics, the following majors will be included in the two U2G proposals in data analytics and finance, as follows:

* Actuarial Science B.S.
* Applied Physics B.S.
* Biology B.A., B.S.
* Chemistry B.A., B.S.
* Computer Science B.A., B.S.
* Criminology, Law and Justice B.A., B.S.
* Data Science B.S.
* Informatics B.A., B.S.
* English B.A.
* English and Creative Writing B.A.
* Interdepartmental Studies B.A.
* Journalism and Mass Communication B.A.
* Linguistics B.A.
* Mathematics B.A., B.S.
* Physics B.A., B.S.
* Political Science B.A., B.S.
* Psychology B.A., B.S.
* Sociology B.A., B.S.
* Statistics B.S.

1. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Helena Dettmer  
Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs and Curriculum  
Secretary Pro Tem for UEPCC