

MINUTES
Undergraduate Council
November 4, 2021

The Undergraduate Council met in person and via video conference in Wingo Hall 315.

Members participating included: Patricia Poulter (NV), Kurt Boniecki (Chair), Terry Johnson, Bernard Chen, Shawn Charlton, Susan Perry, Alex Chen, Kristin Dooley, Suzanne Johnston, Jayme Millsap Stone, Brent Shires, Carl Frederickson, Ed Powers, Tom Snyder and Vicky Summers (NV).

Members absent: Janet Filer, Art Gillaspay, Aurora King, Alicia Landry, and Charles Wu

Guests: Jacob Held, Leslie Gomes, Jennifer Parrack, and Katelyn Knox

Dr. Boniecki called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

Action Items:

1. Dr. Charlton, on behalf of subcommittee one, made a motion to recommend approval of a proposal from the Department of Student Transitions for **new course ACAD 1180** Introduction to Community Engagement. Dr. Johnston seconded the motion. Motion passed, all in favor.

2. Dr. Powers, on behalf of subcommittee two, made a motion to recommend approval of a proposal from the Office of the Provost to **remove the BS special degree requirement**. Dr. Charlton seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Dr. Boniecki reiterated key points of the proposal and specifically emphasized that once the BS special degree requirement is removed students would need to complete six hours of general electives unless (1) the special degree requirement was already met by major requirements or (2) departments decide to replace the hours with additional major requirements through the normal curriculum process. However, departments are under no obligation to change anything in their curriculum. Motion passed, all in favor.

3. Mr. Johnson, on behalf of subcommittee three, made a motion to recommend approval of a proposal from the Office of the Provost to **change the BA special degree requirement**. Dr. Alex Chen seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Some members indicated the need to further develop the BA definition because it is too vague. They worried that, without a clear definition of a BA degree, there is no basis for approving or denying BA coursework. Other members countered that the taskforce charged with making the recommendation did their due diligence in defining the philosophy of a BA degree and that the definition must be broad because it covers so many disciplines. Others questioned why the BA special degree requirement was being changed to a related course requirement for the BA majors since the same was not proposed for the BS degree. Dr. Poulter explained that the taskforce found less consensus among department chairs for changing the foreign language requirement than for changing the

BS special degree requirement. By moving it to the major as a related requirement, departments can propose changes through the normal curriculum review process. Some members raised a concern that, if departments choose to change the foreign language requirement, it might make it harder for students to change majors from one BA degree to another or double major within a BA degree. Dr. Boniecki warned against creating a precedent in which consistency across majors was a criterion for approving new curriculum changes. Members supporting the proposal mentioned that programs do not have to change and that if departments don't do anything, the foreign language requirement remains. Under the current proposal, every single Academic Map for the BA degree will stay the same. Dr. Boniecki reminded the council that impact statements by department chairs are required whenever programs make course changes that affect other departments. Changes to the foreign language related course requirement for each BA degree would require an impact statement from LLLC. Dr. Boniecki stopped discussion at 2:39 pm so there would still be a quorum for voting. Motion passed, eight in favor, one opposed, and three abstentions.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Undergraduate Council,

Dr. Carl Frederickson