
**Undergraduate Studies Council
Minutes of 13 April 2021**

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate Undergraduate Studies Council was called to order at 3:07 p.m. on 13 April 2021, through a virtual Webex meeting by Clifton Ealy, chair.

Roll Call

Members in Attendance: Jessica Birnbaum, Deanna Bush, Steven Carr (substituting for Colin MacCreery), Carrie Cumming, Michael Duffy, Clifton Ealy, Steven Eberth, Bruce Ferrin, Kate LaLonde, Eli Lantz (Western Student Association), Elijah Lewis (Western Student Association), Irma Lopez, Dianna Sachs, Daniela Schroeter, Nicolas Witschi

Members Absent: Kate LaLonde, Elijah Lewis

Academic Advising Liaison in Attendance: Colleen Stano (substituting for Betsy Drummer)

Advisory Members Absent: Edwin Martini

Ex Officio in Attendance: Matthew Mingus

Guest(s): Lisa DeChano-Cook, Geography, Environment, and Tourism

Quorum

A quorum was present.

Agenda

It was moved by Ferrin, seconded by Birnbaum, to accept the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes

It was moved by Eberth, seconded by Lopez, to approve the 2 March 2021 minutes as provided. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports of Officers

Chair Ealy and Schroeter attended the Institutional Interdisciplinarity Team meeting. There will be 69 proposals seeking approval under the interdisciplinarity framework. They will notify the council if and when any of these proposals will need to be reviewed by the Undergraduate Studies Council.

Ex Officio Mingus reported that elections of new officers for the 2021-22 year will be held at the May USC meeting.

Reports of Council/Committee Standing Committees

Duffy provided the report of the Intellectual Skills Program Advisory Committee. Although the committee continues to meet, it is unclear how the committee will continue to function due to a lack of membership.

Unfinished Business

Duffy led a discussion regarding *Charge #4: Collaborate with the International Education Council and the Graduate Studies Council to provide recommendations on how to best support faculty in the area of global learning (e.g., global classrooms, virtual study abroad, international curriculum)*. Representatives from Graduate Studies Council, International Education Council, and USC met to discuss the common areas of interest. It was settled that one possibility is to create a tag for courses with global content, similar to how service learning courses are identified, to assist students and advisors in incorporating global learning into their programs of study. The council will progress with the charge in the next

academic year. It was moved by Ferrin, seconded by Mingus, to postpone action on charge #4 to next academic year. The motion carried unanimously.

Lisa DeChano-Cook joined the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

It was moved by Mingus, seconded by Ferrin, that USC approve MOA 21/03: Revision of Dean's List Honors. The motion carried unanimously.

Witschi led discussion regarding the CAS 17-373.SCAA-Create Accelerated Graduate Degree Program in Public Administration proposal. Cumming requested clarification about how a 4000-level course could be applied to a graduate program. She recommended that the proposal be changed to state that students who completed the relevant 4000-level courses as an undergraduate could have the total required credit hours of the graduate program reduced by up to six credit hours. Cumming noted there is discrepancy between the required GPA to continue in the program listed in the proposal and the required GPA to continue the program listed in the Accelerated Graduate Degree Program policy. The language of the AGDP policy does not allow departments to apply a higher required GPA. It was moved by Ferrin, seconded by Schroeter, that revisions to the Accelerated Graduate Degree Program policy be made such that it would require a GPA of 3.0 or better, rather than requiring just a GPA of 3.0. With one abstention the motion carried.

Bush joined the meeting at 3:42 p.m.

New Business

It was moved by Duffy, seconded by Cumming, to approve CAS 21-106.GEOG-Deletion-Climate Science and CAS 21-107a.GEOG-Name Change-Environmental Analysis and Resources Management. The motion carried unanimously.

Announcements

Chiar Ealy encouraged members to self-nominate for a position on the council.

Adjournment

It was moved by Ferrin, seconded by Schroeter, to adjourn the meeting at 4:14 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The Undergraduate Studies Council will meet next on 11 May 2021 on a virtual Webex meeting at 3 p.m.

Approval

Submitted by Dianna E. Sachs, Secretary

Minutes approved the eleventh day of May 2021.