University Board of Undergraduate Studies
December 3, 2014
Approved Minutes

Present: Edward Blumenthal (Chair), Gary Meyer, Sandra Cleveland, Scott D’Urso, Susanne Foster, Jim Richie, John Su, Norman Sullivan, Farrokh Nourzad

I. Reflection given by Jim Richie

II. Minutes - November 5th meeting minutes approved with minor changes

III. Ed Blumenthal provided the committee with an update on motions sent to the UAS
   A. Attendance policy update with religious observations - UAS discussed the motion. There were concerns over students claiming multiple faiths/holidays, questions over health related excuses. UAS approved the motion unanimously. The policy will be in effect starting Fall 2015 upon approval of the Provost. Gary Meyer noted that faculty should continue to work with students on absences regardless of the changes to the policy.
   B. Discontinuation of the Motion Narrative Minor - This was presented only as information to the UAS. Two students are currently enrolled and will be allowed to finish.

IV. Implementation of the 120 minimum credit requirement for graduation
   A. Susanne Foster provided a report from the CAPS meeting: There is an issue with students who may have 120 credits going into Fall 2015 when the new rules take effect. This results in the question of when they would graduate if they would switch to the new requirements. We will know by spring how many students will be in this potential situation. It was suggested that if there are no changes to a student’s major requirements as a result of the switch, then this issue can be dealt with through advising. A request was made to see if the Registrar could determine this information now. It currently will only affect students in the College of A&S and the College of Communication. Susanne Foster said she would contact the Registrar.
   B. Gary Meyer noted that the Committee on Teaching is generally supportive of the process.
   C. One additional question was raised whether or not waivers could be used as a way to navigate the issue. There is an Academic Planning Meeting tomorrow and Gary Meyer will report back on their discussion. Gary Meyer will also inquire with the MUSG representative.
   D. Motion was offered to support that all current students be allowed to choose the 2015 bulletin if they wish to do so. - Unanimous Vote in favor of motion

V. Discussion on Credit Overlap between academic programs majors and minors
   A. According to data collected and shared with the committee, there are significant differences across campus regarding the number of credits that are allowed to count across programs. One question was offered as to whether or not a course could be triple counted across three majors/minors. This led to a discussion about potential scenarios that could play out. One issue that was apparent is the inequity between colleges that is a perceived problem. Sizes of majors and minors are also not consistent. Other issues involve cognate courses required of some
majors/minors that are not included in the overall credit count for a major/minor. The committee also discussed how many credits should be unique for a particular plan.

B. Gary Meyer asked the committee whether creating a policy might cause more issues than it may solve.

C. Scott D’Urso offered to bring the committee the policy and charts associated with the College of Communication majors and minors to see how it is dealt within that one college.

D. The topic was tabled - More discussion at the next meeting may be needed.

VI. Discussion of 2nd majors outside of a student’s home college

A. Discrepancies exist in how 2nd majors outside of a home college are handled. Some issues arise as a result of accreditation requirements for specific majors/minors/programs.

B. The committee discussed various issues and examples, but felt it needed more information / rationale for any policy discussions. Ed Blumenthal said he would contact the colleges for input, or he could go to the CAPS meeting and report back in January.

VII. New Business

A. Some new proposed minors may be coming for the January meeting.

B. The January meeting will be held in Zilber 370.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:12p

Respectfully submitted by:

Scott C. D’Urso