University Board of Undergraduate Studies
3/7/18
Minutes

Present: Ben Dombrowski, Michelle Frederick, Scott D’Urso, Sarah Feldner, Siddhartha Syam, Anne Pasero, Risa Brooks, Jill Guttormson, John Su, Stephanie Quade, Heather Hathaway, Michael Slattery, Jeff Labelle, Ellen Eckman, John Borg, Behnam Ghasemzadeh, Dave Clark, Louise Cainkar, Georgia McRae.

Meeting was called to order by Chair, Mike Slattery, at 1:00.

Minutes were approved from our previous meeting on 1/17/18.

Agenda Items:
1. Business Analytics (BUAN) proposal reviewed and discussed.
   - Unanimous approval to accept minor.

2. Sarah Feldner updated the UBUS about the Marquette Core Curriculum. Her points included:
   - Decision was made to not allow current students to take new core but can request individual course substitutions, should they wish to take uniquely MCC courses such as the Methods of Inquiry (CORE 1929) or Culminating (CORE 4929) courses.
   - Advisors are encouraged to direct students to Phil 1001 and Phil 2310 because the College of Arts and Sciences is trying to teach out the UCCS efficiently.
   - Sarah distributed the current lists of approved courses; these also can be found on the MCC website. As spring calls for courses come in, the website will be updated.
   - She will be sending a notice to participating faculty who are teaching in the MCC in the fall that some course revision funds will be available.

3. Environmental Ethics termination proposal was reviewed and discussed.
   - Termination requested because of lack of faculty to teach courses and student interest.
   - New Environmental Studies major folds many of the Environmental Ethics courses and concerns into it.
   - Unanimous approval to terminate minor.

4. Creative Writing minor proposal was reviewed and discussed.
   - Seen as a valuable specialization within the Writing Intensive English major, as well as attractive to students outside of an English major.
   - Unanimous approval to accept minor.

5. English as a Second Language minor proposal was presented by Ellen Eckman and Jeff Labelle from the College of Education. The rationale behind this proposal includes:
   - All graduating teachers increasingly need some ESL training given the language diversity in school classrooms.
• This is a minor offered to all students but EDUC students will be given a certificate from DPI as an enhancement to their qualifications.
• The minor would also benefit Fulbrights and other students who are teaching English abroad.
• Unanimous approval to accept minor and DPI certification.

6. Arab and Muslim American Studies minor proposal was reviewed and discussed.
• Heather Hathaway explained the program’s placement within the larger Race and Ethnic Studies Program currently in development.
• She explained that this differed from the current Arabic Language and Culture minor in that it does not require knowledge of Arabic language.
• Some committee members raised questions about the title: why Arab and Muslim American?
  o Might this be offensive to other Muslims who are not Arab?
  o Might this exclude Sikhs or other groups who are perceived as Arab and face comparable racisms?
• The program proposer, Louise Cainkar (SOCS), was present to discuss this issue.
  o She acknowledged the concern and explained that
    ▪ because many Muslims are also racialized, regardless of their actual ethnicity (e.g. a white woman wearing a hijab or African American Muslims in the US), and all discriminated against similarly because of their religion and
    ▪ because the dominant mode of bias in the United States ascribes “Arab” to most Muslims, regardless of the inaccuracy of this,
    ▪ the title makes the most sense given its content.
  o The very questions raised are those addressed in the course.
  o Moreover, “Arab and Muslim American Studies” is the current terminology that is used.
• Hathaway explained the ways in which naming ethnic studies programs is a fluid process as shifting political environments causes changes in group identification and semantics (e.g. the recent resistance to “Black” Lives Matter as opposed to African American Lives Matter).
• Unanimous approval to accept minor.

7. The LatinX Studies minor proposal was reviewed and discussed.
• Hathaway again explained this minor’s placement within the Race and Ethnic Studies Program, as well as how it differed from Latin American Studies.
• Noted that this was also an important piece toward becoming an HSI.
• Unanimous approval to accept minor.

8. The proposed revision of the Attendance Policy was discussed.
• Point was made that “religious observation” should include the phrase, “as defined by the campus ministry calendar” and a link should be provided to this.
• Point was made that the existing policy specifies that medical clinic does not provide excuses for missing class and that this should be added.
• Point was made that unexcused absences do not require faculty to make up work; this, too, should be added.
• Point was made that, since the WA/W/UW sections was removed, a link to this info in the bulletin should be provided.
• A great deal of discussion took place about the ways in which this policy might open the door for problems:
  o Say a student misses six classes due to a combination of the excused absence provisions listed (university-sanctioned event, religious observation, court date) and then also misses a seventh due to illness.
    ▪ At this point student cannot really succeed in the course, but student is also not required to withdraw.
    ▪ Is there a way to determine the number of both excused and unexcused classes that can be missed?
• Decision was made to table this proposal, work on policy revisions before next meeting and reconsider then.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30.