

MINUTES

November 28, 2023

UNDERGRADUATE ASSEMBLY

The Undergraduate Assembly met in regular session on Tuesday, November 28, 2023, at 2:15 p.m. on in-person, Trinity Hall, Room 104. Several additional faculty (noted below) joined the meeting via Microsoft Teams. The meeting was called to order at 2:26 pm.

Attendance:

***Several faculty joined by Microsoft Teams:**

Luis Rosado, Casey Brown, Austin Allen, Chen Kay Yut, Seraphin Wideline

Linda Barasch	Conroy Kidd (ex-officio without vote)	David Rosser
Nathan Brown	Julia Lindgren	Peggy Semingson
Kay-Yut Chen	Maria Martinez-Cosio	Wideline Seraphin
Peter Crouch	Elizabeth Merwin	Kimberly Tate (ex-officio without vote)
Monica De la Fuente Iglesias	Nancy Michael	Carter Tiernan
Rebecca Deen	Laura Mydlarz	Melissa Walsh
Sergio Espinosa	Joshua Nason	Deborah Williams
Ceil Flores	Owen Parker	Fernando Jaramillo
Nelson Gomez-Torres	Lynn Peterson	Amber Smallwood
Darlene Hunter	Tim Ponce	Tamara Brown
Tom Ingram	Srinivas Prabakar	
Oswald Jenewein	Ashley Purgason	
Leslie Jennings	Kelli Rogers	
Pam Johnson	Luis Rosado	

Agenda

Welcome Remarks Tamara L. Brown, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Brown greeted the Undergraduate Assembly and began the meeting at 2:26 pm. She welcomed everyone back and hoped everyone had fun and rejuvenation during the break.

Approval of October 10, 2023 Minutes (attachment) Tamara L. Brown

*NOTE: Some edits were made by Nancy Michael for the minutes in the section on the replacement policy. This was clarifying language and a few details that were noted. Dr. Brown asked for a vote on the minutes.

A quorum was met.

First order of business.

Approved unanimously. Motion carries.

- I. **In Favor: ALL**
- II. **Opposed: 0**
Abstain: 0

Unfinished Business Tamara L. Brown

There is no unfinished business.

Reports

Dr. Brown invited Dr. Tom Ingram to present the UCC report. Dr. Ingram wished Dr. Brown a good relaxing break. Dr. Ingram said there were no long reports today but there are critical items. There are two new proposals from COBA. BBA in Entrepreneurship and the second is BBA in HRMN. Dr. Ingram asked if those should be presented one at a time since they are major programs. Dr. George Benson is visiting as a guest from COBA to present. Dr. Benson gave a quick overview. He said he is happy to entertain questions. These are existing concentrations in the management degree. They are converting these concentrations into bachelor's degrees. Dr. Ingram asked if there were any questions on BBA in Entrepreneurship. He reminded they went through Dr. Smallwood's office. No questions. Dr. Ingram—UCC recommends proposal for BBA in Entre for approval. Dr. Brown takes his recommendation as the motion. Dr. Brown added as a comment that colleagues in business are looking at whether they can incorporate experiential elements within these programs as a part of curriculum—internships as an example, or certifications so students have a greater competitive advantage. when they leave us in the marketplace. They are thinking of this (not in current proposals).

Dr. Brown asked all those in favor of BBA in Entrepreneurship. Asked if any opposed. Motion carries. Timothy Ponce seconded.

Approved unanimously. Motion carries.

- I. **In Favor: ALL**
- II. **Opposed: 0**
Abstain: 0

Second BBA in HRMN—Dr. Benson said they expect it will be very popular with undergraduates. They get common requests for it. No new classes needed—reconfiguring classes into a bachelor's degree. He asked if there were any questions. Nancy Michael said is UNIV required for transfer students? Answer: Only for freshman. He said only required for freshman. Dr. Ingram said UCC recommends approval.

Dr. Brown asked all those in favor of BBA in HRMN. Dr. Brown asked if any opposed. Motion carries. Owens seconded.

Approved unanimously. Motion carries.

- I. **In Favor: ALL**
- II. **Opposed: 0**
Abstain: 0

Dr. Benson said thanks to all.

Dr. Ingram said one mid-year catalog addendum (CONHI: BS EXS to MSAT edit from 10-October UA meeting approval.). It was edited on our first meeting and there were minor corrections and they have dealt with that and submitted that. Nothing major-just clerical cleanup that corresponded to what was approved. Dr. Brown asked if this needs another approval. Dr. Ingram said yes. Dr. Brown asked if any questions. Dr. Brown asked if any opposed. Asked for a second. Nancy Michael seconded. All those in favor.

Approved unanimously. Motion carries.

- I. **In Favor: ALL**
- II. **Opposed: 0**
Abstain: 0

Last item presented by Dr. Ingram: Sixty-nine courses as presented (13 adds, 0 deletions, and 56 modifications.) Dr. Ingram says UCC recommends approval. Ashely Purgason asked a question for clarity. AAAS still shows up as division of student success. They are under office of provost, but they are separate from their division. Dr. Ingram said it's a legacy link. Dr, Ingram asked if any other questions. Dr. Brown asked for a second. Carter Tiernan seconded. Dr. Brown asked: Any questions?

Approved unanimously. Motion carries.

- I. **In Favor: ALL**
- II. **Opposed: 0**
Abstain: 0

Dr. Smallwood asked about that label. If not associated with a college or organization, then will have to do some creation to get that done. Dr. Brown reiterated, yes, that is true. Dr Ingram said UCC thanks you for your support or review.

Summary from Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

1. Two College of Business Program Proposals
 1. BBA in ENTR (Entrepreneurship)
 2. BBA in HRMN (Human Resource Management)
2. One Mid-Year Catalog Addendums (CONHI: BS EXS to MSAT edit from 10-October UA meeting approval.)
3. Sixty-nine courses as presented (13 adds, 0 deletions, and 56 modifications.)

Core Curriculum Committee Sergio Espinosa, CCC Chair

Sergio Espinosa presented. He said normally they present the report in January. But they use the month of December in case courses need changes, they have time in December. This is not the case this year. Only two courses. He is going to share about those. They received two applications which he will explain.

Biology 1345, Biology 1 for Nursing
Biology 2460, Nursing Microbiology

The committee is not recommending these courses for approval into the core curriculum. There was some language that could not work. Biology for nursing, the title hints is specialized for nursing

students. Core curriculum need to be open to every student. Also, there was language in the description. The description of this course provides knowledge for those pursuing a degree in nursing in health, part of the description of the course. Since this is already in the catalog it cannot be changed. That is a longer process. The second course, 2460 has a similar problem. The description of this course, this course will give the nursing and pre-health student....However the concern is if the student reads the description they will think “this is not for me”. Dr. Espinosa: at this point the curriculum is not recommending these two courses. Nancy: what are the prereqs? First course has no prereqs, second course has a pre, 1441 (biology for science majors). 1335 is the other one (Melissa Walsh clarified). Guidelines allow for certain prereqs. The problem was: (Texas core curriculum guide). One question: “Why was an electrical engineering course denied? Answer is in title and description.

Pre-Nursing students take this course but if they are not accepted, they end up needing to take a second science. The committee is not the place to solve that existing challenge/problem. Core curriculum is not the forum.

A UA member from CONHI asked: If they have a thousand students who try to get in and they accept 200, that could be something that could be the potential to change? Sergio: At this point, if the language issue were not there, these two courses could be accepted. A student reading the description might not take it because they are not a nursing major.

Laura Mydlarz: We understand but we lose two years now, we can get the titles changed within this cycle of curriculum (time frame).

Sergio: These changes will take a long time.

Laura: we will change the titles this round and will be effective Fall of 2024 meaning they will be core classes fall of 2025.

Sergio: that is the rules that we follow.

Dr. Brown: we already have biology and microbiology on the books. If that content was general and fitting the core, those existing courses should meet the need. If they are not interchangeable, now we are focused on the core. For her, it’s not just the name changes. Why do they need another biology class? Why isn’t what is offered satisfactory for nursing students? If it is titled that it is by definition customized. It’s not just about what it’s called. There is something else in the course that is being particularized for a particular discipline.

Laura: There are legacy classes in the core that are specific to a discipline like chemistry for engineers. Dr. Brown: those would bear re-examination. Legacy that we will keep versus proliferating by adding more. One of the questions she has had “who owns the core?” and when have we evaluated the content to remove courses that should no longer be there? Who is the body that serves that function for the university. She is still in search of an answer.

Tim Ponce has a question: some of what he has heard is attempts for students to transfer from local community colleges, because certain students believe they are not getting adequate edu from community colleges. As a program coordinator he has run into this. He wonders if that is the motivation here. Unless you come in core complete....Dr. Brown summarized--Motivation to make it harder for transfer students to transfer in. We are working on getting in compliance for field of study. Decision for this body is whether these two courses should be added to the core. The committee is recommending against. One concern she has is because the report wasn’t made available prior to this meeting, and we haven’t been able to consider it. She is led to believe we need some time to think about what is being advanced. We need to submit these in advance of the next meeting so we can review what is being requested. He will prepare the document and submit in advance for January.

Melissa wants to address what Tim Ponce brought up, but she says it makes it easier to transfer in. They are 2460 already has a common number. It’s a matter of having it here in the core so it would be easier for students to transfer it in. They are already submitting name changes so it will be in line

with the community college. The idea is to make it easier. Dr. Brown assumes those details would be in a submitted report. There are a lot of questions. We will wait until there is a report before the UA. Nancy Michael asked are you just putting together documents or is there an opportunity to revise and consider before the next meeting. It's not possible—Sergio. When there is a cosmetic change they have a month to fix 1 or 2 things. But they cannot because it must go to the core curriculum committee. It will take one year to present. The changes need to be in the catalog.

Academic Standards Committee (attachment) Nancy Michael, ASC Chair

No report from academic standards committee.

Registration, Calendar, Scheduling Committee (attachment), Maria Martinez-Cosio, RCSC Chair

Amy Dominguez will be presenting. This is a non-voting item—just for information (Maria Martinez-Cosio).

Amy shared: August 18 is proposed start date for Fall 2025. Sergio asked: do students have problems after thanksgiving to come back? Some universities start earlier. Are there challenges? Amy said yes we have a set number of instructional days we must adhere to. There are several sessions in a term. It would be challenging to end at Thanksgiving. Dr. Brown we get a lot of questions about that. We have a lot of summer programming with folks in the resident halls up to near start. So, housing has an extremely compressed timetable to turn resident halls over so students can come back. We would need to cut out the summer camps if we wanted to start earlier that is part of it. We also get requests to start later. One of the ways other universities: they make shifts within the semester that buys them back days. If you cut out days faculty have to do grading. That gives you days for making shifts for when terms start. They have cut down on number of grading days. They have compressed number of final exam days. We have not had a discussion on whether faculty want a day or two less to get grades in. For final exams, compressing that schedule means need more rooms on campus than we have to have more exams simultaneously. We don't have the space to shrink exam days. Those are all the constraints. Tammy Shoemaker: We are bound by terms. Registrar is clarifying there is a common calendaring, and we can only move by about seven days from when they say we can.

New Business

No new business

Adjournment Tamara L. Brown

We are adjourned at 3:18 pm.

**Details regarding agenda items have been posted online for Assembly members to review.*

Respectfully submitted, Peggy Semingson, College of Liberal Arts.