

MINUTES

January 31, 2023

UNDERGRADUATE ASSEMBLY

The Undergraduate Assembly met in regular session on Tuesday, January 31, 2023 at 2:15 p.m. on Microsoft Teams [due to winter weather].

Attendance

Winguth, Arne M	Tomlinson, Allison	Amaya, Miguel A	Jennings, Leslie
Tiernan, Carter	Johnson, Pamela C	Fay, Jacqueline Ann (ex-officio without vote)	Conrad, Paul
Doughty, Teresa Taber, PhD	Scarpace, Daniel	Deen, Rebecca	O'Donnell, Kaci Marie
Lewis, Rebecca J	Nason, Joshua M	Espinosa, Sergio	Smallwood, Aaron D
Brown, Nathan	Brown, Tamara (ex-officio with vote)	Tate, Kimberly (ex-officio without vote)	Holmes, Michael
Parker, Owen	Aswath, Pranesh B (ex-officio without vote)	Banda, Shanna Essiann	Austin Allen
Semingson, Peggy L	Ingram, Tom L	Kydd, Conroy E (ex-officio without vote)	Dong, He
Prabakar, Srinivas	Jocius, Robin	Mydlarz, Laura D	Li, Jianling
LaBrenz, Catherine	Smallwood, Amber M. K. (ex-officio without vote)	Tjuatja, Saibun	Hunter, Darlene E
Hickman, Kimshi L	Flores, Ceil	Kim, Young-Tae	Boyd, Jeanean B
Peterson, Lynn	Chen, Kay Yut	de la Fuente Iglesias, Monica	
Michael, Nancy L	Reed, Edith (ex-officio without vote)	Rosser, David	

Quorum: A quorum was reached

Welcome Remarks

Tamara Brown, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Brown addressed the assembly with a welcome and advised that we are flexible for attending online due to the pandemic. She officially called the meeting to order at 2:16 pm. She has a meeting with the emergency management team immediately after this meeting.

Approval of November 22, 2022 Minutes (attachment)

Tamara Brown

Dr. Brown asked for the approval of minutes. Any discussion from last meeting? No comments. Dr. Brown asked for a motion. Paul Conrad moved; Owen Parker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approved unanimously.

I. In Favor: ALL [30]

II. Opposed: 0

III. Abstain: 0

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Tom Ingram, UCC Chair

Programs

Dr. Brown turned it over to Dr. Tom Ingram. Dr. Ingram shared his screen on Teams. Dr. Ingram said Tuesday, November 29, 2022. They met to discuss official UCC business. Note items for program proposals were and are available in UA Teams folders. The program proposals were from College of Science for Fast Track degree plans. They were reviewed by UCC and there no problems and approved unanimously. Dr. Ingram recommends approval by UA at this time. Dr. Brown asked about process-does this committee (UCC) review first? Or are they simultaneously reviewed?

Pranesh—it can happen simultaneously. If there is a point of contention there is clarification. Don't need approval from one body to be approved by the other body. We rarely have those type of issues here.

Motion that two fast-track approvals be approved by this body? Owen Parker seconded the motion. Any questions? No questions from the assembly. Then it is before us as a vote. All in favor raise hands. Motion carries.

Approved unanimously.

I. In Favor: ALL [30]

II. Opposed: 0

III. Abstain: 0

Catalog proposals

Dr. Ingram shared there are three catalog proposals that were approved by the UCC all approved unanimously (COE, COED, and COS proposals). Pranesh shared a minor is a minimum of 18 hours. Can have a certificate at 9 hours but not sure you can have a minor at 9 hours. Dr. Ingram shared the COED department of ELPS from COED that had nine hours. Change from 15 to 9 SCH. Kimberly Tate says a minor requires 18 semester credit hours. Dr. Ingram clarified it is, in fact, a leadership certificate. Dr. Brown asked for other questions. There is a motion to approve these catalog proposals. Joshua Nason seconded the motion. No discussion so voting took place.

Approved unanimously.

I. In Favor: ALL [30]

II. Opposed: 0

III. Abstain: 0

Course Proposals

Dr. Ingram said 121 courses, 13 adds, no deletes, and 108 edits were under review by UCC at their last meeting. These were submitted from CAPP, COED, COE, COLA, COS, and SSW. These were all passed unanimously in the UCC. He said these are in the UA files. UCC recommends these for approval to the UA. Dr. Brown made a motion to approve. Catherine LeBrenz seconded the motion. Any questions or comments? There were none. We are ready to vote. Motion carried.

Approved unanimously.

I. In Favor: ALL [32]

II. Opposed: 0

III. Abstain: 0

Dr. Brown asked if anything else from UCC? Dr. Ingram shared that UCC will have dealt with three meetings before the next UA meeting. So they may have substantial items for the UA to consider.

UNIV Courses

Tamara Brown

Dr. Brown shared she wanted to discuss the approach to the UNIV courses and to hear from the UA about how to move forward. She has heard complaints about UNIV courses of varying sorts-how they are taught and how they are to be managed. She has in mind: content, duration, and grading. She understands they are letter grades. Do we need 16 weeks? Content—who should own the content? Currently the content is driven centrally. Dr. Brown worries about having UNIV courses that are so customized to majors so when students change majors it is an issue. They are so highly specialized and customized. There are overarching agreements—what are the essential things students should have?

Nancy Michaels shared the grading of F letter grade could negatively impact a student. Dr. Brown—what do we mean by passing?

Laura Mydlarz from the College of Science has already started redesigning. In CoS it was a mix of college dept stuff and university college readiness.

It is still listed in your transcript. Allison—students are getting social work competencies from the SSW-specific course. It would mean significant revision to the way they operate and conduct the course. She is curious about how they would engage and ensure students completing the course.

Jackie Fay—Consider faculty workload for this. Joshua—Affects degree plan hours.

Comments from chat window in Teams:

- I thought these were restricted to FTIC students.
- The content was a mix of department and general. the students want more of the career/ filed specific material
- How has the content changed? The PAL content has typically been fixed for FTIC
- COE uses its "half" of UNIV 1131 to do specific college content.
- New transfers have been able to be treated differently already with different course content.
- It's my understanding that there may be a mechanism for embedding UNIV content into a course instead of having the stand-alone courses. Teresa can confirm/correct, but in COED, I believe we shifted to embedding UNIV content into EDUC 2302 (an introductory course called The Professional Educator).
- COE uses its "half" of UNIV 1131 to do specific college content.
- The College of Nursing used to have the content embedded in an intro course, then we moved to separate courses, and now we are opting to go back to an embedded model.
- COE has separate courses for FTIC and new transfers for this intro course
- They only repeat if they fail.
- I recommend making it all high quality self-paced online modules-- would add the most flexibility and accommodate flexible learning to meet student's needs and they wouldn't have to physically attend.

- Our incoming freshman (Dept. of English) benefit the most from the specialized content for our major. This really gets them involved with the department and helps with retention. I would not want that to change.
- The main issue that we had with giving a letter grade was that the Peer Academic Leaders were providing the grading, feedback, and we found a lack of consistent grading practices among peers grading peers. Attendance issues were the number one reason that students failed in the nursing courses.
- UNIV was specifically required for FTIC only and colleges/programs had to create another course for transfer students. We had to give up a credit hour from our program to UNIV.
- The UNIV classes for FTIC students are limited to student groups of about 30-35 with one instructor and one peer academic leader, to provide high-touch.

Dr. Brown will kick around these ideas.

Standing Committee Information Sharing

Nancy Michael, UA Member

Dr. Michael—committee is looking at three different things. They are prepared to give recommendations on support strategies for conditionally admitted FTIC students. There was a document shared in the files. This issue was brought by Dr. Purgason. They are prepared to recommend that the catalog will be changed to add language for support for conditionally admitted students. Dr. Michael shared her screen with the language. Motion to the body by Dr. Michael to approve. Dr. Brown thanked Dr. Michaels.

Second from Rebecca Dean.

Dr. Brown asked if any questions/comments. Catherine LaBrenz—with the MavsRISE program, can it be explained really briefly what all that entails for students? Also did we involve student voice in this to see what barriers they have identified and what things they would be helpful? Kimshi—to keep them enrolled at UTA. She doesn't believe there was discussion from students (input question). Pranesh—Asked Nancy to share the data on students conditionally versus unconditionally admitted. The rate at which they fail is significantly higher than unconditionally admitted students. Nancy screenshared this data. There has been no indication to the student they were actually conditionally admitted. There hasn't been a way to work with them. Kimshi shared they could enroll them in a tailored UNIV course.

Dr. Brown—there is an opportunity to put the input from students into place as program is not yet in place. That is helpful.

Chat question: Do the students know they are admitted conditionally? It was my understanding that students were not aware of that designation. Kimshi in chat in response: *No, they are not aware of the conditional admission.*

Chat comment--thanks for clarifying. I would want to make sure it isn't another barrier for students who may need unique support.

Question in chat: would this be a requirement for all the conditionally admitted students? Response from Dr. Brown in chat-- *Jianling, yes. The language being proposed is that students cannot be admitted if they decline participation in the MAVS RISE program.*

Kimshi-students aren't aware they have conditional admission. The standards committee is recommending who is the right group of students. There isn't currently a way to work with these students.

There is an active motion on the floor. We are voting on accepting this language.

Approved unanimously.

I. In Favor: ALL [28]

II. Opposed: 0

III. Abstain: 2

The last item from Nancy Michael is to consider revision of the Grade Revision policy. She said the comments about this proposal should be given in writing. Her statement for background was shared. She invited people to email their unit rep on this committee. They have been asked to reconsider grade forgiveness policy. A brief history—1995-2006, they could replace up to ten credit hours with D or F by retaking a course and then second letter grade because grade of record. 2006-2012-they could exclude three courses from GPA and didn't have to retake. Current policy, 2013 on, allowed replacement of 2 D or F courses (retake to replace) and can omit one if they change their major and don't need their course any longer. What has been proposed by Advising Community Task Force is allow students to replace every initial D or F grade (1000-4000 level) (unlimited but only one per course). Nancy will provide a written document showing these previous and currently proposed. Send comments directly to Nancy Michael: nancym@uta.edu

Comments in chat:

- Seems like this will need some discussion before a firm decision.....
- This is a huge change. What is the rationale?
- I agree with Tiernan, Carter, need some understanding about the rationale for this drastic of a change.
- A change in policy is outstanding. Unlimited potentially provides students with bad incentives.
- As faculty and also an undergrad advisor, this seems to be much too lenient of a policy. We do need a change in policy, but this is quite drastic ..
- I think this is one for faculty senate to consider and advise on at an appropriate stage
- As faculty and also an undergrad advisor, this seems to be much too lenient of a policy. We do need a change in policy, but this is quite drastic ..

Dr. Brown said we will need further time and attention. Nancy Michael will send a written summary document.

Academic Standing Policy

Tamara Brown

[skipped by Dr. Brown]

Core Curriculum Committee Update

Sergio Espinosa, UA Member

Sergio Espinosa presented. CCC met in November or December to review the proposals for Core Curriculum. Some didn't meet the requirements. So they invited some of the courses to resubmit. [This overview is in the Teams archived files for the UA]

MATH 1402

MANA 1301

GEOG 2301
ENVR 2314
EDAD 2330

Dr. Espinosa said he is open to questions and concerns. It is a motion. The committee recommends this body to approve these courses for the designated areas of the core curriculum. Owen Park seconds. Any discussion? No discussion. Motion carried.

Approved unanimously.

- I. In Favor: ALL [28]**
- II. Opposed: 0**
- III. Abstain: 0**

New Business

Online Credit Hours

Owen Park, Undergraduate Assembly Member

Owen presented that all section courses are counted as online if one section is offered online. Is there a way to make it more granular? Dr. Brown—that is a SACS accreditation rule. She has clarified that. The SACS liaison has called SACS and they have said the way you are doing it is the way we intend. They have clarified this. Regional accrediting body rule.

Adjournment

Tamara Brown

Meeting was adjourned at 3:32 pm

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

Respectfully submitted, Peggy Semingson, College of Liberal Arts.