

# Minutes of the Bachelors of Liberal Studies Committee

Regular meeting of the BLS Committee held at 11am on Tuesday, February 13, 2018 in Lee Hall 414.

In attendance were voting members Jackie Gallagher (secretary; CAS), Leanna Giancarlo (chair; CAS), Marco Millones Mayer (CAS), Cristina Turdean (CAS), as well as ex-officio members Ana Chichester (Director, BLS Program), Jessica McGraw (Assistant Director, BLS Program), Sarah Lindberg (Admissions) and Woodie Walker (BLS Student Representative, non-voting). Chad Murphy (CAS) was absent. Marco is a sabbatical replacement for Nora Kim.

## **Approval of Minutes from Dec. 4, 2017**

With correction of a typo, the minutes were unanimously approved.

## **Reports:**

Sarah Lindberg (Admissions) reported that BLS admissions are looking really good for Fall 2018. We have 17 applications already (6 this time last year), and 3 have paid deposits. Five offers have been made and 8 applications are pending. For Spring 2018, we had a total of 50 applications, and 20 students enrolled, a 40% yield. Of the 50 applications, 27 offers were made and 20 enrolled – which is excellent. The previous spring saw 64 applications and 32 enrollments, still a 40% yield.

Sarah is working with Graduate Admissions on events at Geico and Fort Belvoir. She will be attending a spring college fair at Germanna in April. Last week she visited Piedmont CC and 2-3 students will apply, they were very interested. We are attractive partly because we offer a discipline-specific named degree.

The Northern Neck area is difficult; they don't appear to have many non-traditional adult students, even in evening programs. Sarah reports that Community Colleges are reporting that enrollment is down – e.g. Thomas Nelson down 17% - which happens when the economy is good.

Discussion about eligibility for the BLS program, one of a number of criteria. Sarah will try to re-write so as to clarify that it is not all of them.

Discussion about students who started UMW as BA/BS and dropped out, who could be targeted to return as BLS students. Other schools are doing this. Sarah will speak with Rita Dunston, as we would need access to Banner data and Clearinghouse data.

## **Items of Business:**

Consideration of Brian Sherwood's special major. After speaking to his advisor in Psychological Sciences, the title has been changed to Counseling Studies. The committee approves the major.

A survey from the UFOC regarding the duties and composition of the committee was considered and completed, with input from the entire committee.

## **Announcements:**

Our next meeting will be Tuesday March 13 at 11.00 am in Lee 414.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:48am.

Respectfully submitted, Jackie Gallagher