

# Minutes of the Bachelors of Liberal Studies Committee

Regular meeting of the BLS Committee held at 11.05 am on Tuesday, March 13, 2018 in Lee Hall 414.

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

## **Approval of Minutes from February 13, 2018**

The minutes were unanimously approved.

## **Reports:**

None.

## **Items of Business:**

Consideration of the status of the Director of BLS Program as a non-voting member.

In recent semesters, the committee has been working under the erroneous assumption that the Director was a voting member of the committee. We realized last month that this is not the case, and discussed whether the Director should be a voting member. In the majority of other committees like this one, the director is an ex-officio non-voting member; the exception is the Honors Committee, where the composition is the same as the BLS Committee, with 5 faculty members and the Director all being voting members. The matter was discussed. It was tabled pending conversation with Dr. Kelli Slunt, Director of the Honors Program.

Jessica and Ana presented an outline for a new course with the BLST designation. Originally, there were four courses (portfolio, independent study, internship and orientation). The orientation course was removed years ago because it had little content and served no useful purpose. Jessica and Ana suggest that a 1-credit course in 'Academic Development' be proposed. It would serve as a gateway to UMW policies and procedures for BLS students, with an emphasis on work/life balance and introduction to campus centers (speaking, writing, digital knowledge, careers), library research resources, and so on. It would not be required. The committee decided that it would be different from other 1-credit IDIS courses as they focus on traditional undergraduate students. Ana will work on finalizing a syllabus and presentation to the Curriculum Committee.

## **Announcements:**

Our next meeting will be Tuesday April 10 at 11.00 am in Lee 414.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:41am.

Respectfully submitted, Jackie Gallagher