

Minutes of the Bachelors of Liberal Studies Committee

Regular meeting of the BLS Committee held at 12.00 pm on Friday, September 21, 2018 in Combs Hall, 236.

In attendance were voting members Chad Murphy (chair; CAS), Cristina Turdean (secretary; CAS), Yuan Jen Chiang (CAS), Marco Millones Mayer (CAS) as well as non-voting, ex-officio members Ana Chichester (Director, BLS Program), Susanne Tomillon (Assistant Director, BLS Program) and Andrew Mullins (BLS Student Representative, non-voting). Absent were voting member Nora Kim (CAS) and ex-officio member Sarah Lindberg.

Meeting began with the introduction of new faculty members Yuan Jen Chiang and Marco Millones Mayer; student representative Andrew (AJ) Mullins; and BLS Advisor and Assistant Director, Susanne Tomillon

Reports from BLS program:

Ana discussed the future changes to the Leadership and Management major. The newly proposed online courses complement the major and would also respond to needs expressed by current and prospective BSL students. Such courses provide more convenience and flexibility to students who work, want to decrease commuting, have family obligations, etc. Ana also commented on the BLS special major in Cyber Security. The first Cyber Security major (Corey Green) just graduated this August. Currently, there are eleven students enrolled in the Cyber Security major program.

Susanne reported on her work since she started the job last month. She almost completed the review of senior check sheets for fall graduates and is continuing those for spring graduates. The schedule of the BLS office in Combs Hall has been modified as follows: 8-5 on MTRF and 9-6 on R, with the latter being a trial meant to accommodate working students.

Items of Business:

The committee review of special major submitted by Julie Van Ommeren. Ana explained the process that led to the selection of courses in this major as well as the input from faculty who assisted with its development. Committee members suggested changes in the current title of the major (“Advocating and Mentoring”). A couple of suggestions were “Disability Studies” and “Special Needs Advocacy” and Ana will discuss these choices with the student’s advisor as well as the student. The committee unanimously approved the special major with the amendment on its title still pending.

Announcements: The next meeting will be at noon on October 19, 2018 in Combs 236.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Cristina Turdean