

Minutes of the Bachelors of Liberal Studies Committee

Regular meeting of the BLS Committee held at 12.00 pm on Friday, November 16, 2018 in Combs Hall, 236.

In attendance were voting members Chad Murphy (chair; CAS), Yuan Jen Chiang (CAS), Marco Millones Mayer (CAS), Cristina Turdean (secretary; 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). Absent were voting member Nora Kim (CAS) and ex-officio member Sarah Lindberg.

Reports from BLS program

Admissions Office:

Melissa Yakabouski sent in the report. Application numbers for the spring of 2019 are similar to those from last year. Currently, there are 34 applications. 11 of them are complete and under review.

The Assistant Director of Transfer Admissions position is open at this moment and the search will begin soon.

BLS Director:

Ana Chichester met with CAS Dean Keith Mellinger to discuss the transition of all courses still offered under the designation of the now-discontinued Bachelor of Professional Studies Program (BPST) to the Bachelor of Liberal Studies (BLS) designation in the Leadership and Management major. As part of this process, the Curriculum Committee has already approved the former BPST312 (Technical and Business Communication) to count as BLST312 (Professional Communication), with a new catalog description and the English Composition 101 prerequisite being eliminated.

UMW has contracted a survey of adult learners in the larger Fredericksburg area, which will produce data of interest to the BLS Program.

Assistant Director, BLS Program:

Susanne Tomillon reported on enrollment trends in the Leadership and Management major in comparison to the overall BLS enrollment from the fall of 2016 to the spring of 2019. There seems to be a slight decline in the popularity of the former but correct interpretation of this pattern needs corroboration with other factors (i.e. growing enrollment in other BLS majors, changing student demographics) as well as more accurate data.

The BLS Office is in the process of recruiting a student aide for a 1-credit spring internship including social media responsibilities.

Items of Business:

The committee reviewed the Transition Services special major submitted by Larry "Justyn" Cox and required the applicant to add some clarification regarding the total number of credits included in this major; his post-graduation plans; and information on Transition Services undergraduate programs.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Cristina Turdean