

Minutes of the Bachelors of Liberal Studies Committee  
September 6, 2019

Regular meeting convened at 1:10 pm, September, 6, 2019 in Combs 101

Voting members in attendance: Marco Millones Mayer (CAS, Chair), Abbie Tomba (CAS, secretary), Sushma Subramanian (CAS), Yuan Jen Chiang (CAS), Jenifer Pollack (CAS). Non voting, ex-officio members in attendance: Ana Chichester (Director, BLS Program), Susanne Tomillon (Assistant Director, BLS Program), Jose Torres (Admissions), Devyn May (BLS Student Representative).

Abbie Tomba (CAS) was elected as Secretary for 2019-2020

**Report from Admissions (Jose Torres):**

Jose Torres reported that admissions received 88 BLS applications for Fall 2019 and have received 38 deposits. Admissions is continuing to work to increase applications including an evening information session at Germana Community College. Jose also discussed the financial challenges BLS students face with the new university payment policy and that Admissions is trying to work on a more streamlined hand-off between admissions and academic advising. After Jose reported BLS admission offers were made both electronically and via mail, Ana asked that the BLS program be copied on those offers to help better advise potential students.

**Items of Business:**

**BLS General Education Requirements:**

The BLS committee **unanimously approved** the following modification of the university's newly approved general education requirements for BLS students (see attached BLS-Gen-Ed-Chart). The modifications include removing the First Year Seminar and Language requirements. These were removed because transfer students are not required to take a first year seminar and a language requirement can be prohibitively difficult for continuing students who have not taken a language course recently. Additionally, the removal of these requirements is consistent with the previous BLS general education requirements.

The After Mary Washington and Beyond the Classroom requirements were also removed as BLS students generally enter the program with life and career experience that meet these requirements. All other requirements were kept

**Revision Leadership and Management major:**

The BLS committee **unanimously approved** revisions to the Leadership and Management major. This includes adding a required course, BLST 312 Professional Communication (SI/WI), to the major. This was added to so the major would comply with the new general education requirements. ECON 201 was also added to the electives in the major.

Discussion of a Special Major Approval for Julie Van Omeren was postponed until next meeting.

Devyn May (BLS Student Representative) brought up the issue that major advisors may have some confusion in advising BLS students. Susanne Tomillon (Assistant Director, BLS Program), emphasized that major requirements are similar for students regardless of whether students are in the BA/BS or BLS program and encouraged faculty to talk to her if they had questions.

Meeting adjourned at 1:56pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Abbie Tomba