

Minutes of the Bachelor of Liberal Studies Committee  
September 22, 2020

Regular meeting convened at 9:00 am, September 22, 2020 via ZOOM

Voting members in attendance: Marco Millones Mayer (CAS, Chair), Abbie Tomba (CAS, secretary), Sushma Subramanian (CAS), Yuan Jen Chiang (CAS), Dan Wolfe (COB)

Non voting, ex-officio members in attendance: Ana Chichester (Director, BLS Program), Susanne Tomillon (Assistant Director, BLS Program), Jose Torres (Admissions). Larry Ralph (Student Rep) Kenya Carter (Student Rep)

**Welcome & Introductions**

New members this year include Dan Wolfe (COB), Larry Ralph (Student Rep) and Kenya Carter (Student Rep)

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

Jose Torres reported that in Fall 2020 we received 70 total BLS applications and received 35 deposits. Most students not admitted didn't meet the basic requirements (ex. had a GPA < 2.0). Admissions does reach out to declined students and gives them suggestions for how to improve their application.

In discussing the application process, student representative Kenya Carter suggested that admissions communications could be more assertive and Larry Ralph (student representative) suggested sending calendar invites for admissions deadlines. Jose also mentioned that the system is more automated and automatically e-mails applicants if application documents are missing

Finally, so far Spring 5 application and 3 deposits have been received and a BLS informational webinar is planned for October.

**General Education Requirements for BLS program (Ana Chichester)**

<https://catalog.umw.edu/undergraduate/general-education/requirements-bachelor-liberal-studies-degrees/>

Ana Chichester reported that the new General Education requirements for BLS students were approved by the UFC and reviewed the requirements and rationale for the committee. Students enrolling this year are under the new general education requirements, students enrolled before this year were given the opportunity to switch to the new gen eds or finish their degree under the previous requirements

**Update on activities of the BLS office (Susanne Tomillon)**

Susanne Tomillon reported that the number of students currently enrolled in the BLS program (117 students) was up considerably from last year at this time (84 students). She also reported that online advising is going well and Canvas modules have been designed for new student advising. Additionally, the BLS website is being redesigned to be more user friendly and easier to navigate.

**New Business**

The UFOC requested a BLS student representative for the committee. Larry Ralph volunteered; Ana encouraged him to ask other BLS students if they were able to serve as he is already a representative on the BLS committee.

**Admissions**

Ana discussed developing a way to formalize how we communicate with applicants who are denied admission because they don't meet the criteria. This could include information on why students were not admitted and strategies to rectify the unmet requirements.

Marco Millones suggested Jose keep track of students who aren't admitted and why, and look for common patterns among these students and report findings at our next BLS meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:01

Respectfully Submitted,  
Abbie Tomba