

Minutes of the Bachelor of Liberal Studies Committee
March 4, 2021

Regular meeting convened at 9:00 am, March 4, 2021 via ZOOM

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

Non voting, ex-officio members in attendance: Susanne Tomillon (Assistant Director, BLS Program),

1) Susanne gave a report on BLS activity.

Kudos to fall graduates! Fifteen BLS students graduated. Three were magna cum laude. Two summa were summa, two graduated with highest distinction and four with distinction!

BLS was given access to a slate report, which is an admissions report. It shows where interested students are in the process of applying. So if potential BLS students are missing some documents or haven't made a decision, it's possible to nudge them.

Advising sessions have been held at Germanna. While those have been successful, many of those who show up are already applicants. It's not yet clear how to reach out to students who don't know about the program.

One marketing method that's been studied is emphasizing that there's no 60-credit discipline limit in BLS. If someone comes in with significant coursework in a particular major, they aren't penalized.

Finally, the new major in Managerial Economics has garnered significant interest.

2) Marco presented on a non-degree certificate program: GISc.

It focuses on map-making, satellite image analysis, etc. There are four mandatory courses and two electives. There is more potential to promote this program through BLS. Here are three ways to go about that:

- Embed the certificate within a major. The challenge is not to penalize students with previous coursework, so the idea would be to combine it with existing business, economics and environmental science courses.
- On the website, have a section devoted to certificates. Computer science is also working on a certificate. Perhaps other departments can as well.
- Make "Intro to GIS" an elective under communication umbrella to introduce students to it.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sushma Subramanian