

Minutes of the Bachelors of Liberal Studies Committee
September 3, 2021

Regular meeting convened at 12:00 pm, September, 3, 2021 via Zoom

Voting members in attendance: Abbie Tomba (CAS, Chair), Varun Makhija (CAS, secretary), Sushma Subramanian (CAS), Bridget Brew (CAS).

Non voting, ex-officio members in attendance: Ana Chichester (Director, BLS Program), Jose Torres (Admissions), Elizabeth Goodloe (BLS Student Representative).

Varun Makhija (CAS) was elected as Secretary for 2021-2022

The committee decided to continue meeting via Zoom for the foreseeable future

Report from Admissions (Jose Torres):

Jose Torres reported that admissions received 65 BLS applications for Fall 2021, 35 offers were made 24 students have submitted deposits. This represents a dip in applications compared to last fall, though transfer applications held steady and yield improved. There are 4 applicants for Spring 2022 thus far, with 1 deposit. This is primarily roll-over from applicants in the fall semester. Admissions aims to secure 50 to 60 applications for the Spring. A large uptick is expected in applications mid-September based on the application deadline of October 15.

Items of Business:

Online Leadership and Management major:

The BLS committee **unanimously approved** the online version of the Leadership and Management major. Details of the major were explained to the committee by Anna Chichester. The major includes approved online versions of the courses offered for the in-person version, with the exception of Accounting For Managers. This has been replaced with Accounting 101, with intent of upgrading this to Accounting 102 after it is approved for online instruction. The capstone course - LRSP 460 – is necessarily in person, but the students have the option of replacing this with an internship or an online independent study. The three electives, divided into three categories for the in-person version, have been streamlined into a selection of courses from the humanities and social sciences that are approved for online instruction. These will be revised every semester based on the online offerings available. A question was raised regarding the possibility of a hybrid major, with students opting for some courses online and some in-person. This is possible, since many of the required courses have numerous in-person sections.

Other Announcements: Finally, Anna Chichester announced the resignation of BLS advisor and Assistant Director of the BLS program Suzanne Tomlin. A search for a new Assistant Director has been initiated with HR. The professional profile of the position has been elevated to include the teaching of a 1 credit pass/fail course called academic development.

Meeting adjourned at 12:24pm

Respectfully submitted,
Varun Makhija