

Minutes of the Bachelors of Liberal Studies Committee
November 12, 2021

Regular meeting convened at 11:56 pm, November, 12, 2021 via Zoom

Voting members in attendance: Abbie Tomba (CAS, Chair), Sushma Subramanian (CAS), Kelly Yoon (CAS).

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

Also Present: Jose Torres (Admissions).

Report from Admissions (Jose Torres):

Jose Torres reported that admissions has received 39 BLS applications and 7 deposits for Spring 2022, compared to 51 applications and 9 deposits at this time last year. 5 of the 7 deposits were received last week, with more expected in the coming weeks. Admissions recently hosted a transfer student information expo for adult students with approximately 35 students in attendance. Additional applications are expected as a result.

Report from BLS (Ana Chichester):

Ana Chichester reported that the search for a new Assistant Director for the BLS program is underway. An upgrade of the position was approved by the provost, with the additional duties of working more directly with admissions and teaching a new course. The course – Academic Development – will be for new students needing additional academic guidance.

In Addition, Ana Chichester reported that the BLS program is seeking SCHEV approval to advertise the Leadership and Management Major as an all-online major. This will require all general education to be fulfilled online as well.

Items of Business:

Special Majors:

The BLS committee **unanimously approved a special major in Hispanic Studies** for Lillian Ramirez. A detailed rationale and course list for the major were provided to the committee before-hand. Ana Chichester explained that the student declared a major in Spanish and was succeeding. However, being a business owner a number of required courses that could not be offered online or in the evening were inaccessible to her. The committee agreed that the special major was well structured, and the rationale carefully thought out by the student.

The committee also considered a special major in History of Conflict: Nations and War for Daniel T. Tobin. A brief description of the major and a course list were provided to the committee before-hand. Further clarification was requested by the committee. Ana Chichester explained that the student originally enrolled in 2014, under old Gen Eds. Two issues were brought to the committee's attention related to the student's reinstatement. First, the committee would have to consider a motion to reinstate the student under the old Gen Eds, which they have completed. Second, the student has more Phys Ed credits than is currently allowed, and therefore they cannot all be counted towards the degree, and the committee would have to decide if the Phys Ed rules needed to be adjusted. As such, they are one credit short of graduating. The committee **unanimously passed a motion put forward by Abbie Tomba to reinstate general**

education requirements Mr. Tobin was originally admitted under for his special major. In addition, there was unanimous agreement that the Phys Ed rule should not be altered. The will be instead be provided the option to take a CLEP exam which can provide the single credit needed to complete the degree.

Retroactive DI Petition

The **unanimously declined a petition to retroactively count CPSC 110 as DI** for Luke Adair. The committee had received a detailed communication from Karen Anewalt (CPSC chair) explaining the additions to the DI version of the course. In addition, Abbie Tomba commented that this not typically done for BA/BS when Gen Eds are changed, and Sushma Subramaniam commented that approving the request would set a precedent for future petition that may not be appropriate. Given these considerations, the committee denied the request.

Discussion about new BLS Gen Eds

Ana Chichester discussed problems with counting transfer courses towards Gen Eds, when UMW does not have an equivalent course. This is specifically an issue with methods courses, since a standardized policy does not exist for counting a not-major transfer course in the humanities as a Gen ed methods course. A solution will be proposed and presented to the committee in a future meeting.

Discussion of BLS Committee Charge

Abbie Tomba brought to the committees attention that, according to the Faculty Handbook, the only ex-officio members on the BLS committee are the BLS director, and a Student representative. Over the past several years we have invited and (wrongly designated as ex-officio) a representative from Admission and the Associate Director of the BLS Program. Abbie proposed writing a motion to amend the faculty handbook to include these positions in the handbook language at a future meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 12:39 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Varun Makhija