

Minutes of the Bachelors of Liberal Studies Committee
February 11, 2022

Regular meeting convened at 11:56 pm, February, 11, 2022 via Zoom

Voting members in attendance: Abbie Tomba (CAS, Chair), Varun Makhija (CAS, Secretary), Sushma Subramanian (CAS), Bridget Brew (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), Kristen Fairbanks (Associate Director, BLS Program).

Abbie Tomba introduced our new Associate Director of the BLS program, Kristen Fairbanks, to the committee. This was followed by a report on enrollment from Jose Torres.

Report from Admissions (Jose Torres):

Jose Torres reported that admissions has received 10 BLS applications for the fall and 1 deposit from an accepted student. At the same time last year, we had 6 applications and no deposits. An advertising campaign is being planned to promote the leadership and management major to keep up the current momentum.

Report from BLS (Ana Chichester and Kristen Fairbanks):

Ana Chichester presented a potential course sequence for a full-time BLS student looking to complete the leadership and management major entirely online. Students will be offered a fall semester sample of the required courses online. Half the courses offered include an 8-week option. Abbie Tomba inquired about the format and meeting times for these courses. Anna Chichester responded saying that the classes meet from 6:00 pm to 8:45 pm once a week.

Kristen Fairbanks then reported on marketing strategies for BLS. Improvements have been on the website, to make it clearer, easier to navigate and more appealing. Testimonial videos are being prepared in which BLS students present their motivations for choosing UMW and their experiences in the BLS program.

Items of Business:

Special Majors:

The BLS committee **unanimously approved a special major in Economics and Leadership Studies** for Kidist Kelm, with a Business Law class deleted. A detailed rationale and course list for the major were provided to the committee before-hand. Ana Chichester explained that the student enrolled with nearly 85 credits, primarily in accounting and management courses, making a major in leadership and management redundant. In addition, due to the student's schedule, a major that accommodated night classes and online classes was needed. Since Kidist is passionate about teaching, and intends to pursue a master's degree in education, Abbie Tomba suggested replacing Business Law with a more relevant class such as Public Speaking as an elective. The committee agreed, and the major with this course deleted (a total of 33 credits), was approved unanimously approved by the committee.

The committee **unanimously approved revisions to Lilian Ramirez's special major in Hispanic Major**. This major was approved during the committee's last meeting. The requested

change was to remove Sociology 411 and Spanish 491, resulting in a 36-credit major. The student already had two capstone projects, an internship and an individual study, resulting in the decision to remove the additional independent study in Spanish. Being a small business owner, the student is not able to take Sociology 411 at the times it is offered. However, she is able to fulfill the learning goals of the special major and complete 120 credits without taking the course.

Meeting adjourned at 12:33 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Varun Makhija