

Minutes of the Bachelors of Liberal Studies Committee
March 18, 2022

Regular meeting convened at 2:00 pm, March, 18, 2022 via Zoom

Voting members in attendance: Abbie Tomba (CAS, Chair), Varun Makhija (CAS, Secretary), Kelly Yoon (CAS), Bridget Brew (CAS).

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

Also Present: Kristen Fairbanks (Associate Director, BLS Program).

Report from BLS (Ana Chichester and Kristen Fairbanks):

Ana Chichester spoke about new marketing initiatives developed in collaboration with Mind Power, the marketing company recently hired by the university, to launch the online option for the leadership and management major. The marketing endeavor will focus on the depth, rigor and flexibility of the major. This will include material to be posted on the BLS website and social media pages. Some additional marketing graphics developed by graduate admissions were shown to the committee.

Kristen Fairbanks reported on students choosing to defer their admission to the program, and on efforts being made to reach out to these students to understand their decision. The committee were then invited to the BLS Honors Society Induction on April 13th at 4:00 pm. 26 students will be inducted, based on the criteria that their cumulative GPA exceeds 3.3. The committee were also invited to visit the BLS offices.

Items of Business:

Special Majors:

The BLS committee **unanimously approved a special major in Political Science and Management Studies** for Christian Walker. A detailed rationale and course list for the major were provided to the committee before-hand. Ana Chichester explained that the student had previously attempted to major in Political Science, but had a great deal of difficulty. After meeting with him, Anna Chichester helped him construct a major that better aligns with his career goals and interests. This then led to the addition of a management component to his major. The student has also enrolled in courses over the summer in an attempt to bring his GPA up to 2.0, to avoid being in academic jeopardy. Both Kristen Fairbanks and Ana Chichester agreed that the student is more optimistic, and seemingly excited about this new major.

Meeting adjourned at 2:20 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Varun Makhija