

BLS (Bachelor of Liberal Studies) Committee Minutes

November 10th, 2025

Committee members present: Robert Wells (chair), Sarah Smith (secretary), Prashant Chandrasekar

Ex officio: Ana Chichester, Kristen Fairbanks

Student representative: none present

Absent members: Daniella Schweyer, Evan Fletcher, Leo Lee, Bridgette Dennett

Meeting was called to order 4:06

Admissions information Kristin

- 123 enrolled students for Fall 2025
- 17 have applied to graduate this semester
 - 14 likely to graduate
- 21 to graduate in spring 2026 with more likely
- Goal of 15 new students to enroll in Spring 2026 semester
 - We will likely hit the benchmark
 - 19 completed applications
 - 11 have registered for courses
 - 2 are waiting for advising appointments
 - 5 admitted but unresponsive for setting up and advising appointment
 - More applications are unfinished and 6 students may switch from traditional to BLS due to changes in circumstances.

Overall enrollment looks great and students are making it through the degree and graduating.

Special major discussion:

The committee discussed a special major request by a student for a student aiming to graduate in Spring 2027 with a proposed major in Leadership and Governance. The committee discussed the proposal and agreed that the proposed courses were appropriate for a major and aligned with the student's career goals. The only potential issue would be if his suggested capstone course options (PSCI 471 and 475) would fit his work schedule. The committee decided Kristen would email the student to check with his PSCI advisor to make sure that the classes would be offered at a time he could attend, or to look into PSCI 491 as a potential substitute. The student has until Dec. 1st to get back to Kristen and the committee about the capstone course.

The committee voted unanimously to approve the special major pending a resolution of the capstone course.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45