

Undergraduate Academic Council Minutes

Meeting: Wednesday, April 27th 2:30-3:45PM

Room: Campus Center 370

Present: Maria Brown, Yu-Hui Chen, Greg Denbeaux, Steven Doellefeld, Sue Faerman, Martin Hildebrand, Winnie Kutchukian, JoAnne Malatesta (Chair), John Murphy, Joan Savitt, Christy Smith, Kabel Stanwicks, Michael Steklof (graduate student rep.), and Katherine Trent.

Guests: Karen Chico Hurst, Sue Freed, Linda Krzykowski, John Pipkin, Greg Stevens and Maria Tchernei (a Criminal Justice PhD candidate).

Chair's Report:

The Senate Executive Committee will meet Monday. The Chair will bring the bills she has at the moment and will need 2/3 vote in order for the Senate to hear it.

The Chair introduced John Pipkin, Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, who has asked to address the Council regarding the General Education resolution to create an Advisory Board. Pipkin asked that the Council reconsider the constitution of the Advisory Board. He cited that the CAS departments provide 80-90% of the GE seats and would like the representation on the General Education Board to be proportional.

He also expressed concerns about resource availability for the Freshman Writing Seminar class. The Vice Provost stated that the Provost has made it clear that there is funding to support this initiative.

The Council decided to re-word the resolution taking into consideration Dr. Pipkin's/CAS concerns and will email a draft to members for their review.

Dr. Pipkin expressed concerns about the pace with which changes to the General Education curriculum were moving forward. Members of the Council indicated that the conversation about changes has been ongoing for almost two years and other SUNY institutions had already moved to implement changes.

The Chair of the Curriculum Committee was not able to attend today's meeting but another member of the committee talked about some bills they have reviewed:

1) History Department and its streamlining of their major: their 3 concentrations will stay as they are, they want to limit the AP credits, but it was not clear how AP credits will count. The Committee will ask the department for more clarification on this matter.

2) The East Asian Studies Program also submitted a proposal below is their rationale:

The actual proposal and its rationale are explained in detail in the accompanying memo from the Department Chair. It consists of five main actions:

1. Addition of existing courses to the lists of approved courses in the various requirement categories of the Department's three undergraduate majors (Chinese Studies, East Asian Studies, and Japanese Studies) and revisions of some course descriptions.

2. The systematic renumbering of the Department's upper-level seminars from the 300-level to the 400-level.

3. The creation of graduate sections of Chinese Studies seminars to be delivered as shared-resource sections as the need arises in the School of Education's Chinese Teacher certification program.

4. Addition of a major residence requirement to ensure that students graduating with one of our majors will have completed a minimum amount of coursework with UAlbany faculty.

5. Prohibition against double majoring in East Asian Studies (EASIA) AND Chinese St. (CHI) OR Japanese St (JPN).

This proposal was voted down in the Curriculum and Honors committee due to concerns about the prohibiting of the double major. The Curriculum Committee wanted the Council to review the proposal and the implications of the adding a restriction to the ability of student's to double major in EASIA and CHI or JPN. The Council agreed not to move the proposal forward at this time and to revisit the issue in the next academic year.

Committee reports:

Committee on Curriculum and Honors: Continuing to work on new proposals

Committee on General Education: Presented the final draft of the General Education proposal.

Committee on Interdisciplinary Studies: Nothing to report.

Committee on Academic Standing (Sub-Committee of CAAS): Nothing to report.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45PM