

Undergraduate Academic Council Minutes

Meeting: UAC Meeting Thursday, Dec 3rd, 2009 -1:30-2:30pm
Room: Terrace Lounge, Campus Center

Present: Yu Hui Chen, Robert Keesee, Martin Hildebrand, Christy Smith, Maria Brown, Winifred Kutchukian, Steven Doellefeld (staff), Joan Savitt (Chair), Linda Kryzkowski (guest), Gregory Denbeaux, Laura Wilder, Sue Faerman, JoAnne Malatesta, Katherine Trent, Sue Phillips (guest), Kabel Stanwicks, Greg Stevens (guest) Hany Shawky.

Chair's Report: Senate met last Monday. There are a few UAC introduced bills

on the Senate agenda for the next meeting. The Chair commented that she had heard that the many proposals about improving undergraduate education might finally begin to be discussed with the goal of implementing them. The Chair also announced that Laura Wilder from the English Department will be stepping down from UAC. Professor Steve North has agreed to take her place for spring semester.

Review of the minutes: Minutes from 11/19 meeting were approved as amended.

New Business:

The Council discussed the Honors College proposal of changing their GPA requirements. The bill proposes:

*For students who enter The Honors College as incoming freshmen:
During their first semester, they must achieve at least a 3.25 GPA. At the end of their freshman year, they must achieve least a 3.30 cumulative GPA.
Each subsequent academic year, they must achieve at least a 3.5 GPA during that academic year.*

For students who enter The Honors College at the beginning of their sophomore year:

They must achieve at least a 3.5 GPA each academic year.

One member raised the concern that the new Honors College grade point requirements are different from the departmental honors programs. Another member read the email sent by Professor Haugaard, Director of the Honors College in which he questions the concern with the changes, as departmental honors programs and the Honors College are completely different things. The Chair proposed some changes in the wording of the rationale and will circulate them via email. The Council voted in the affirmative on the amended bill, with a single nay vote.

Deactivation of Globalization Studies: A proposal was put forth to deactivate the major in Global Studies temporarily, as this faculty led major currently has no leadership, and few faculty to teach its courses. There is a need to restructure this major before is activated again. This deactivation will not affect students who are currently enrolled, about 25, or the 18 'intended' students. These 18 students should be contacted so they are informed and guided in what to do next regarding this change. The Council supports the temporary deactivation of the major. However, there were concerns about the rights of students already at UA who had not yet declared it. Sue F said that she did not know of any SUNY rules which would preclude deactivating a faculty-initiated major, and that this would be a campus-based decision, since there is no HEGIS code involved.

Old Business:

The Council continued the discussion regarding attendance policy with regards to long term absences. Members mentioned the credibility the VProvost's letter gave to students. The Vice-Provost's office would like to see the University Health Center handle the sick notes when absences are two weeks or longer. Another issue to consider is the timeliness of student's request for an absence note. The Vice Provost will work on a proposal and submit it to the Council.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30pm

Next meeting will be Thursday, Dec 10th from 1:30 to 2:30PM or longer as necessary.

Room: Underg Educ Conference