

Undergraduate Academic Council Minutes

Meeting: Wednesday, October 6th 2010. 2:00-3:00PM
Room: Undergraduate Education Conference, LC31J

Present: JoAnne Malatesta (Chair), Maria Brown, Nathan Cady, Steven Doellefeld, Martin Hildebrand, John Murphy, Leah Rotella (undergraduate student rep)Joan Savitt, Christy Smith, Kabel Stanwicks, Michael Steklof, (graduate student rep) and Katherine Trent.

Guests: Karen Chico Hurst, Sue Phillips and Greg Stevens.

Review of the minutes: Minutes from 9/15 and 9/29 meetings were approved as amended.

Chair's Report: -Christy Smith will be the Chair of the Committee on Academic Standing.

-The Honors Program proposal: "Grade Point Requirements for Continuing in the Honors College" was reviewed and sent to the President office for signature.

-The Chemistry proposal was approved by SEC and will be presented at the next Senate meeting.

-The Chair relayed information presented at the SEC by the President and the Provost about the changes announced last Friday. Starting immediately admission to the following programs will be suspended: Greek and Roman Civilization (BA); Greek and Roman Civilization (Honors), (BA); Greek and Roman Civilization (BA/MBA); Greek and Roman Civilization (minor); Classics (MA); French: BA, Honors BA, BA/MA and their PhD program. Also Italian: BA, Honors BA, and their minor. Also Russian: BA, Honors BA, BA/MA, Minor and their Translation Certificate of Advance Study. Another program deactivated will be Theatre: BA, Honors BA, Departmental, Departmental Honors, MA, BA/MA and their minor. Additionally Project Renaissance, the living-learning program for first year students, will be discontinued.

- UAC Members expressed concern about the processes for notifying students. It was pointed out that there are a lot of students who do not meet with their advisors and just get their AVN via email; those students will not necessarily receive information from their advisors about the need to map out their coursework for the next three semesters.

- The Registrar's Office is overseeing and implementing the changes needed in PeopleSoft and will make efforts to let advisors know so they do not admit any new students into any of these programs. There is also an appeal process being put in place via the Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education. Intended majors have been sent an email advising their coursework through spring.

- One member expressed concern about students who are studying abroad and have not been informed about these changes and how they will be affected. Many agreed that an additional announcement should be made in order to reach all students. Suggested options included an announcement by the Vice Provost and or an announcement on My UAlbany.

- One member questioned how this will affect the Foreign Language requirement.

- It was indicated that students have a deadline of October 29th to submit their appeal.

- Additional questions were raised: What will happen with students who are part-time and might not finish their program by 2012? Also if a student takes a leave of absence from school and decides to return after 2012, what will happen with this student and his declared major? Would the university be responsible for providing faculty to assist with completion of declared majors? There were questions regarding what will happen to students if the faculties teaching these courses decide to leave before 2012. How will the students finish their major?

New Business: The Chair has a new tracking system in place for all the bills that come through the UAC.

There was a call from SUNY Senate to look into the restricted majors. Some wonder what SUNY is looking for? It seems that is just a general review of the restrictions, since it has not been done for some time.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00pm