Northern Illinois University

UNDERGRADUATE COORDINATING COUNCIL
210th Meeting
Thursday, February 12, 2015
Altgeld Hall 203

MINUTES

APPROVED

Present: G. Aase/BUS; T. Atkins/LAS; M. Ayers/LIB; A. Birberick/Vice Provost; P. Braun/HHS; C. Campbell/EDU; L. Guo/EET; W. Hung/EDU; H. Joung/HHS; M. Konen/LAS; J. Kot/LAS; L. Matuszewski/BUS; M. Shokrani/HHS; J. Stafstrom/LAS; L. Sunderlin/LAS; C. Thompson/LAS;

Absent: J. Gau/EET

Guests: Jenny Parker, Associate Vice Provost for Educator Licensure; Donna Werderich, Associate Professor, Department of Literacy & Elementary Education; Marc Overbeke, Associate Dean, College of Education; D. Smith, Catalog Editor/Curriculum Coordinator; J. Ratfield, Vice Provost’s Administrative Assistant

I. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made by C. Thompson, seconded by M. Konen, to adopt the agenda moving Item III D to the beginning of Reports/Minutes from standing committees to address the Middle grades curriculum. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Announcements

Birberick suggested that introductions be made due to new member, Lee Sunderlin and the guests present to discuss the Middle Grades curriculum.

III. Reports/Minutes from Standing Committees

D. Committee on the Undergraduate Curriculum

Birberick reported one of the critical items from the February 5th meeting was the Middle grades program. J. Parker said the ISBE is moving its licensure grade-level spans by state mandate requiring the middle grades program creation. Parker said the different levels will be early childhood, elementary, middle grades and secondary. Birberick pointed out that although this would not make the 15/16 catalog, if all the approvals are received, the program can be advertised and
students can be advised on the program. Thompson asked how students would be advised regarding the program. Parker indicated the program will be housed within the College of Education, Department of Literacy and Elementary Education with a program director and advisor. Once the approvals have been received Parker indicated that an advisement sheet would be created and training for licensure advisors will be done for this fall with centralized advising after that. Werderich indicated that advisement for fall is critical for students pursuing middle grades because not only do they select a content area, they can also select an secondary content area. The four primary content areas are: English, Math, Science and Social Sciences. In addition to those four as secondary areas, Family, Consumer and Nutrition Sciences, Physical Education, Health or any of the K-12 content area programs can be secondary choices as well as the ESL/bilingual option.

Birberick also highlighted the changes to English courses due to the PLUS general education curriculum. She indicated that ENGL 103 would remain the same but ENGL 104 and 105 were renamed and numbered to be 200-level course with more writing - becoming ENGL 203 and 204. There was a brief discussion regarding the coding of requirements and articulation agreement coordination.

The last item that Birberick brought up was the move of American Sign Language (ASL) from the College of Health & Human Sciences to the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences. Stafstrom added that based on information provided at the College curriculum meeting it is typical for ASL to be offered through the Department of Foreign Languages; Birberick confirmed that.

C. Thompson made a motion to receive the February 5, 2015 CUC minutes, seconded by M. Shokrani. Motion passed unanimously.

A. Admissions Policies and Academic Standards Committee

Birberick pointed to the Middle Grades program requirements of a C or better in coursework and the 2.5 GPA requirement. Parker pointed out that these were state licensure requirements and they had to be met.

The next topic Birberick brought up was the issue of UNIV 101/201 being a graduation requirement. She indicated the subject was thoroughly discussed at the November, December and February meetings. In the end, it was decided that more work needed to be done on the revision of the course and at this time the issue would be rescinded. There was discussion about the syllabus and textbook for the course as well as questions about the proposed UNIV 301. Birberick indicated that all these things will continue to be revised or developed and further discussions will occur.
C. Thompson made a motion to receive the November 12, 2014, December 10, 2014 and the February 4, 2015 minutes, seconded by M. Konen. Motion passed unanimously.

B. **Committee on the Improvement of Undergraduate Education**

No minutes

C. **Committee on the Undergraduate Academic Environment**

J. Stafstrom reported that UNIV was the primary topic of discussion for this meeting of the CUAE. One point that Stafstrom shared from his experience at the AAC&U conference in D.C. recently, was the evidence regarding what is referred to as first year experiences, which UNIV would be considered, and the positive benefit it has in retaining students. Birberick added information pertaining to High Impact Practices (HIPs) and the impact on retention and timely graduation. The more HIPs students participate in increases their persistence in continuing from semester to semester as well as to degree completion.

A motion to receive the CUAE minutes from the November 11, 2014 meeting was made by P. Braun, seconded by C. Thompson. Motion passed unanimously.

E. **General Education Committee**

C. Thompson reported that there is still a lot of business on hold for the GEC with regards to due to PLUS. The rollover information for current gen ed courses where departments indicated which knowledge domain they wanted them to reside in was presented via spreadsheet. There were only a few that the GEC questioned.

She indicated ENGL 203 and 204 were discussed thoroughly. It was the concern of the GEC that the courses reflected changes that English proposed based on the PLUS recommendations.

In regard to MATH 229 and STAT 208- it was decided that a course can only be categorized as foundational studies or in a domain and not in both. Currently MATH 229 can meet core competency and distributional studies category. That will not be the case under the PLUS curriculum.

Lastly there was a discussion regarding departments having different sections of one course fall into different domains. GEC reiterated the policy of one domain only.
L. Matuszewski made a motion to receive the January 15, 2015 GEC minutes, seconded by P. Braun. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Birberick took an opportunity to hand out an update of PLUS; briefly highlighting what has happened and what will be coming forward. She talked about the Blackboard site for Pathway development. She also emphasized integrated learning within the Pathways. PLUS is about collaboration with colleagues throughout campus.

**F. University Honors Committee**

M. Shokrani reported that the Honors Faculty Status proposal is being worked on in subcommittee. During the November meeting revisions of the Admission standards were discussed. Assessment Goals were also discussed.

Shokrani said the December meeting involved the Eye Grant Awards. He also highlighted some Study Abroad opportunities.

C. Thompson made a motion to receive the Honors minutes from November 7, 2014 and December 5, 2014 meeting, seconded by P. Braun. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**IV. Other Reports**

**A. University Assessment Panel**

M. Ayers reported that the Assessment Expo would be held on March 20th from 8:30 am to noon in HSC Skyroom.

**V New Business**

n/a

**VI Adjournment**

P. Braun made a motion, seconded by G. Aase to adjourn @ 2:55 p.m. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Ratfield  
Administrative Assistant  
Office of the Provost