

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARDS
Of the General College and the College of Arts and Sciences
Tuesday, 21 April 2020

3:30-4:30pm *meeting held over Zoom due to COVID-19 social distancing measures*

Members in attendance: Jessica Brinker, Katie Cartmell, Amy Cooke, Nicole Else-Quest, Mara Evens, Beverly Foster, Li-Ling Hsiao, Richard Langston, Jennifer Larson, Lauren Leve, Lee May, Ted Mouw, Abigail Panter, Valerie Pruvost, Michelle Robinson, Nick Siedentop, James Thompson, Frank Tsui, Jonathan Weiler

Absent: Claude Clegg, Lauren DiGrazia, Kelly Giovanello, Christian Lundberg, Aaron Moody, Terry Rhodes, Keith Sawyer, Lyneise Williams

Guests: Daniel Gitterman, Melissa Carrier, Suzanne Maman, Heather Ward, Elaine Yeh

Staff: Genevieve Cecil

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1. Updates and remarks by Senior Associate Dean Abigail Panter.

Panter began the meeting with a few comments on the state of the world and an expression of thanks to the group for stepping up to the plate during the transition to remote teaching. Regarding developments in the university's COVID-19 policies, it has been determined that no changes will occur until a medical development warrants them, with the next major review set for 1 June. Panter was asked to work on developing different scenarios for the fall semester now that everything has gone online for summer, in the event that current social distancing and remote learning policies extend into the fall semester. Panter then opened the floor to questions. The first two related to the new COVID-19 Hub for students, which was initiated by a group of faculty, staff, and administrators in the wake of the decision to transition to remote teaching for the remainder of the spring semester. Panter reiterated that the Hub is intended to be a central location for COVID-19 updates directed to students, and that it works in conjunction with normal reporting and contact processes for students in distress. Another question related to the university's plans for commencement proceedings, currently canceled due to social distancing and restrictions on mass gatherings. Panter indicated that the Office of the Dean of Students has been actively engaging with graduating students regarding their preferences, but that a university-wide decision has not yet been reached.

2. Graduate Certification in Innovation for the Public Good, presented by Daniel Gitterman, Professor and Chair of Public Policy, and Melissa Carrier, Adjunct Professor of the Practice and Director of the Office of Social Innovation.

Gitterman gave a brief overview of the certification background before acknowledging the collaborative effort with colleagues in the Schools of Public Health and Education. There were a handful of questions from the Board. The Board voted to approve the certificate, with the recommendation that the certificate advisory board consider including more faculty and courses from the College of Arts and Sciences in order to appeal to a wider range of students and in the spirit of thinking more imaginatively and expansively about the term "public good" and what it means today.

3. Letter of Intent, B.S.P.H in Community and Global Public Health, presented by Suzanne Maman, Professor in the Department of Health Behavior and Vice Chair of Academic Affairs for the Gillings School of Public Health.

Maman began her presentation with a brief summary of the rationale behind the request to establish a new BSPH degree program in Community and Global Public Health. This is the fifth such major in the School of Public Health but their benchmarking reports and student assessments indicated there was a sufficient demand for this type of program. It is aligned with and intended to compliment the core courses and required electives of existing programs, and is meant to provide foundational knowledge for those seeking entry-level positions or applying to MPH programs around the country. The Board had a handful of questions and suggestions for Maman before ultimately approving the letter of intent.

4. Study Abroad Advisory Report and Proposals, presented by Heather Ward, Associate Dean for Study Abroad and Exchanges, and Elaine Yeh, Chair of the Study Abroad Advisory Committee.

There were five program proposals for the Board to review: UNC Science in Germany; UNC in Jordan: Women and Leadership in the Arab World; UNC Communications in New Zealand: Working Globally; HIST 220 – The Olympic Games – A Global History; and Transatlantic Security in Brussels and London. The first is intended to make studying abroad more viable for students in STEM programs. The second is intended to draw mostly students from outside the university. The third is a summer program that also provides students with the option to put their knowledge in practice through local internships. The fourth is a popular preexisting course that the instructor would like to bring to the study abroad audience. The fifth is a program taught by an experienced professor that is intended to allow students to conduct mentored research outside of the country. The Board approved all five proposals.

Panter took a moment to check in with Ward regarding the state of her students and programs; Ward expressed her appreciation for the support from Academic Advising and the College in helping repatriated study abroad students obtain credit for their interrupted courses and transition back to life in the US. Of the 409 students abroad in the spring semester, less than a dozen were unable to continue their courses online and had to receive additional support from UNC administration.

5. Course Committee Report and Program Changes

Before the Course Committee Report and Program Changes were announced, Panter took a moment to recognize those Board members whose three-year terms of service were ending. These individuals are Kelly Giovanello, Christian Lundberg, Amy Cooke, Frank Tsui, Jennifer Larson, Lauren Leve, and Beverly Foster. Panter stated that all those who had not yet served their second term would be invited back, and promised to return to the usual recognition of service procedure once social distancing ended.

Nick Siedentop then presented the program proposals up for review by the Board. The Department of English and Comparative Literature is dropping the application component of their Creative Writing minor; Economics is dropping a Computer Science from the non-ECON elective; Environment, Energy, and Ecology (E3P) is adding the newly created geographic info science minor to its list of allied science minors; Exercise and Sports Science is increasing the Experiential Education component in their fitness professional concentration; and Psychology is updating their statistics course requirement and modifying their elective lists for both the BA and BS degrees. The Board approved all proposals.

James Thompson gave a brief introduction for the new Curriculum Analyst, Genevieve Cecil, before commencing with the Course Committee Report. There were 20 new courses and 77 course changes included in the report. The Board approved all changes.

6. Ad Hoc Action Item: Potential Recommended Foreign Language Requirement Modifications for the new First Year Curriculum, introduced by Richard Langston, Professor in the Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages

Panter invited Richard Langston to bring forward a concern related to the Foreign Language requirement modifications for the new curriculum. Langston had heard that Academic Advising and the First Year Curriculum team were discussing potentially pushing back the recommendation for first year students to take their Foreign Language courses until their third semester at UNC. According to Langston, such a recommendation raised major red flags in the Departments of Romance Languages and Germanic and Slavic Studies as it would negatively impact a student's progression through the language curriculum and potentially reduce majors. Panter and Siedentop agreed with this assessment and confirmed that the topic had indeed come up in the implementation meetings but that it related only to certain BS degree programs with required first year prerequisites, and was not a recommendation aimed at all first year students. It was agreed that the discussion was not over but also that no one intends to recommend students delay fulfilling their Foreign Language requirement.

One member raised a question regarding the General Education review process timeline. Panter replied that this had not been a priority topic in the last few weeks, but that all would proceed as planned until a point is reached where a delay might be beneficial to all.

There were no further comments or questions. The meeting was adjourned at 4:36PM.