

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARDS
Of the General College and the College of Arts and Sciences
Wednesday, 16 September 2020
1:00-2:30pm

due to the continuing impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic, this meeting was held over Zoom

Members in Attendance: Andrea Bohlman, Jessica Brinker, Amy Cooke, Luran DiGrazia, Li-ling Hsiao, Richard Langston, Jennifer Larson, Lauren Leve, Aaron Moody, Ted Mouw, Abigail Panter, Michelle Robinson, Keith Sawyer, Nick Siedentop, James Thompson, Jonathan Weiler, Lora Wical, Lyneise Williams.

Absent: Katie Cartmell, Claude Clegg, Nicole Else-Quest, Mara Evans, Beverly Foster, Barbara Osborne Valerie Pruvost

Guests: Tricia Sullivan

Staff: Genevieve Cecil

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1. Updates and Remarks by Senior Associate Dean Abigail Panter (1:00pm)

Panter opened the meeting by welcoming all members, particularly the new members, to the first meeting of the 2020-2021 academic year. Panter acknowledged the difficulty of the last few weeks and months and commended Board members for their commitment and dedication even under such extraordinary circumstances. Panter then solicited opinions and views on the adjustments currently underway for the spring semester after confirming that she does not yet know when the final decision regarding spring instructional modes will be made. Approval for the early decision to make all large fall courses remote was expressed, and members of the Boards were curious if the spring format would be decided before spring registration. The Registrar replied that their office is working with a number of groups across campus to review the fall re-opening and identify improvements, while reminding the Board that there is currently no registration period listed on the Registrar's calendar in order to give the university flexibility. Members continued to push for information to share with faculty regarding course prep and student registration, and Panter replied that several scenarios are being considered for spring in light of lessons learned from the fall reopening, but that department chairs will retain some control over course modality. Several members emphasized a desire to see issues relating to classroom technology and support for hybrid (sections combining face-to-face and remote learning) classes addressed in the spring plans. A question was posed regarding feedback for Phases 1 & 2 of the new IDEAs in Action General Education Curriculum implementation process, to which the Curriculum Director responded that most of the feedback for course proposals submitted in Phases 1 & 2 is currently available, and the rest will be forthcoming soon. One member of the Boards noted that communicating even small decisions as they are made would help faculty reduce the pressure on administrators and provide clarity for faculty and students. Panter and DiGrazia both reiterated a promise to communicate with faculty and departments once decisions have been finalized, while the Registrar also noted that there was nothing concrete to share at this time as they were still collecting feedback regarding the fall re-opening and exploring alternate options for spring.

2. Request to Establish a Master's Degree in Public Policy (MPP)

Tricia Sullivan, Associate Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Public Policy

Panter invited Associate Professor Tricia Sullivan to discuss the Masters in Public Policy proposal, previously been presented to the Board in 2019. Public Policy proposes a new Masters in Public Policy, which if approved would be the only program of its kind in the UNC system. Sullivan cited the popularity of the undergraduate major, historic demand for further instruction on the part of students, and the fact that such a program could be offered as significantly lower cost than comparable ones at private institutions in support of the request to establish. Sullivan then confirmed that the program would initially launch as a dual bachelor's-master's program, where students graduate from UNC after five years with both a BA and an MA in Public Policy. The floor was then opened to questions from the Board. Several members posed questions relating to the difference between the proposed degree and pre-existing ones, (MPP vs. MPA) as well as whether there would be any conflict relating to the joint degree program at Duke. Sullivan replied that the MPP degree focuses more on policy design and analysis rather than management, and that the chair of the department, Daniel Gitterman, had discussed the proposal with colleagues at Duke and neither felt there would be direct competition for students. Sullivan then departed the meeting and the Board voted in favor of the request to establish.

3. Revisions to the Criteria for Experiential Education (EE) Service Learning Courses.

Panter invited Curriculum Director Nick Siedentop to introduce the proposed revisions to the criteria for experiential education service learning courses in light of the on-going pandemic. Siedentop outlined two revisions: First, a reduction in the number of required hours from 30 to 20; second, the recommendation to allow both on- and off-campus placement in internships. Both revisions were felt to give students and faculty more options in fulfilling the Experiential Education (EE) General Education requirement in the Making Connections Curriculum. If approved, these revisions would be effective only during academic year 2020-2021, and the hours reduction would be optional for faculty designing or offering courses carrying the EE Gen Ed. The Board voted in favor of the revisions.

4. Program Proposals Report

Panter invited Curriculum Director Nick Siedentop to present the program proposals report. Three programs have submitted changes: the Applied Science and Engineering minor, the Contemporary European Studies major, and the Economic BS major. The Applied Science and Engineering major was approved in 2019 and implemented in fall 2020; the revisions constitute the removal of a 2-credit hour course from the degree requirement list. The Contemporary European Studies major revisions were submitted in 2019 but never processed and include the addition of several new courses to their theme requirements. The Economics BS major was also approved in 2019 and implemented in fall 2020; revisions included further clarification in the elective requirements to ensure parity with the existing Economics BA major. No vote was required of the Boards.

5. Summer 2020 Course Committee Report

Panter invited Associate Dean James Thompson in Undergraduate Curricula to present the course committee's report of actions taken over the summer. Thompson indicated there were twenty-seven course forms processed during this time, and highlighted the addition of several new Triple-I course. Thompson also formally introduced the new Curriculum Analyst to the members of the Boards.

Panter then solicited any final questions, comments, or concerns. One member of the Boards mentioned that rumors were floating among their faculty regarding a delay in the implementation of the new curriculum. Panter confirmed that discussions are occurring as to whether, in light of challenges currently facing the institution and a desire to ensure the new curriculum is properly vetted and robustly engineered, a delay is necessary, but reiterated that no decision has been reached and that departments and faculty will be informed once it has been.

With no further questions or comments, Panter concluded the meeting by thanking all attendees for their hard work and dedication during the pandemic and encouraging them to contact her as needed. The meeting adjourned at 1:47pm.