

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARDS
of the General College and the College of Arts and Sciences
Wednesday, November 11, 2020
2:30–4:00 PM

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

Members in Attendance: Andrea Bohlman, Jessica Brinker, Claude Clegg, Amy Cooke, Nicole Else-Quest, Mara Evans, Beverly Foster, Li-Ling Hsiao, Jennifer Larson, Aaron Moody, Barbara Osborne, Michelle Robinson, Chloë Russell, Nick Siedentop, James Thompson, Jonathan Weiler, Lyneise Williams

Absent: Katie Cartmell, Lauren DiGrazia, Lauren Leve, Valerie Pruvost, Keith Sawyer

Guests: Katie Bowler Young, William Vizquete, Andra Ghent, David Hartzell, Leticia DeCastro, Anna Millar, Eunice Sahle, Kenneth Janken

Staff: Genevieve Cecil

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1. Updates and Remarks by Senior Associate Dean Abigail Panter (2:30pm)

Panter opened the meeting by welcoming all members before moving directly into updates. She first confirmed that spring 2021 instructional modes have been updated in ConnectCarolina and viewable to students for registration purposes at should be locked in by the end of the month, with instructors being advised to limit changes after that date. She confirmed that the new Class Features tool will go live within a few days, and further details will be shared with all faculty. The function of the tool is to ensure students have more information up front about courses, and Panter confirmed that there were plans to assess its utility by tracking add/drop movements during the first few weeks of the spring semester. Panter also provided an update regarding the University’s testing plans for the spring semester. One Board member inquired about potential off-ramps in the event the spring semester saw a spike in cases as had the fall, and the University was forced to pivot to all-remote instruction. Panter replied that the increased testing will give officials a better picture, sooner, and enable them to avoid a repeat of the fall term. Another member inquired as to the impact of a new federal government and a potential change in federal regulations, to which Panter replied that while the University would comply with all state and federal guidance, the goal of the spring semester is to provide a safe way for students to be meaningfully together and continue their education. In addition to the changes in testing protocol, Panter confirmed that the isolation and quarantine procedures had been heavily revised since the fall to ensure no student was negatively impacted by factors outside their control. Several members raised questions about the revised instructional modes and room assignments for spring. Panter and Curriculum Director Nick Siedentop confirmed that classroom assignments have been made for the spring and are live in the system, but

faculty with concerns regarding specific spaces for in-person, on-campus plus remote (formerly hy-flex) courses should contact the Registrar directly.

2. COIL Courses for Experiential Education Credit (2:50pm) – Katie Bowler Young, Director of Global Relations, Office of the Vice Provost of Global Affairs

Katie Bowler Young introduced the proposal to allow Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) courses to fulfill the Experiential Education (EE) General Education requirement. COIL courses embrace a flexible pedagogical approach where UNC students work with peers at partner institutions on shared projects or creative exchanges, in accordance with high impact instructional practices. As of fall 2020 and spring 2021, COIL has twelve courses scheduled, which represents connections between Carolina students and 10 peer institutions in nine countries across the world, involving an estimated 680 students at UNC and partner institutions. Young confirmed that COIL courses are designed to enable students to develop skills in virtual collaboration by exposing them to other cultures, and are part of a larger initiative to expand the definition of global education by increasing the portfolio of international educational opportunities at UNC. Young stated that while the importance of this initiative had been highlighted by the pandemic, the main goal is to expand inclusive and barrier-free study abroad options for students long-term. Current and projected enrollments support this goal, as do the variety of courses currently being offered. Panter thanked Young for her presentation and opened the floor to questions from the Boards. Comments were overwhelmingly positive, with several members praising the inclusive design and innovative approach to addressing student concerns about fulfilling their EE credit during a pandemic. Several members inquired about marketing and communication plans, and Young confirmed that both her team in Global Affairs and the broader University communications team were working on marketing content to increase student and faculty awareness of the program. When asked if the proposal was to add COIL courses to the current list of approved EE items, Young confirmed that this was the intent, to which Associate Dean James Thompson added the rider that such a move would dovetail nicely with the High-Impact categories of the upcoming IDEAs in Action General Education Curriculum in fall 2022. The proposal was approved.

3. New Undergraduate Minor: Engineering for Environmental Change, Climate, and Health (3:10pm) – Associate Professor William Vizuete, Department of Environmental Science and Engineering

William Vizuete introduced the proposal for a new undergraduate minor in Engineering for Environmental Change, Climate, and Health by stating that the Department of Environmental Science and Engineering is uniquely poised to train students in devising engineering solutions specifically for public health concerns. The specialty of the faculty, combined with the department's rank among peer institutions at the state and national levels and the fact that the minor consists of many courses required for other STEM majors at UNC means this program will be appeal to both new and current undergraduates. Finally, he noted, the majority of courses will be taught by research professors, which addresses the increased demand for undergraduate research opportunities on campus. Panter then opened the floor to questions

and several members queried whether the faculty in Public Health would be able and willing to welcome undergraduates in their higher-level courses. Vizuete confirmed this had been considered in the development of the minor and that all faculty whose courses were included in the proposal had agreed to accept undergraduate students and to modify their curriculum, if necessary, to serve students from diverse educational backgrounds. He mentioned that many of the courses listed were currently underserved, and the department looked at the minor as a way not only to match peer institutions, but also to expand the department's offerings and audience. Chloë Russell, Associate Dean for Academic Advising, enquired about the extensive prerequisites required by the minor. Vizuete agreed that while the prerequisites were extensive, they were necessary to ensure students have the proper background to succeed in a quantitative heavy minor that is also technically rigorous. He also reminded the Boards that nothing included in the minor is outside what is required for B.S. degree in Chemistry, Biomedical Engineering, and several other STEM majors. Associate Dean Thompson recommended that the department evaluate enrollment a few years into the program to ensure a diverse student body given this is a systemic issue in quantitative heavy majors and minors. Panter agreed, and suggested the Boards devise a review and feedback process for programs who sought to increase the diversity of their students following these kinds of department-level assessments. The proposal was approved.

4. Undergraduate Program Requirement Changes (3:20pm) – Nick Siedentop, Curriculum Director

Siedentop informed the Boards that the report contains only about three-quarters of the proposals submitted by the 15 October deadline, and that the rest will be reviewed in January 2021. The report consisted of fourteen majors and fifteen minors, most of which requested only minor changes to their course lists and program content. Several majors and minors were reducing the total credit hours. The proposals were approved.

5. New Undergraduate Minor: Real Estate (3:30pm) – Profs. Andra Ghent and Dave Hartzell, Director of Academic Services Leticia DeCastro, and Assistant Dean Anna Millar of the Undergraduate Business Program, Kenan-Flagler Business School

Anna Millar provided a brief overview of the new proposed undergraduate minor in Real Estate. The main goal of the minor is to address the interest of undergraduate non-Business majors in the field of real estate studies, and to bridge the gap between interest and available Business School offerings. Millar confirmed that this minor is one of several specialized programs being developed as part of the approved expansion of the undergraduate business program. The team felt that the best way to meet the expansion goals was to create more specialized minors so that non-business majors can enhance their primary area of study with the business skills necessary to thrive in a post-baccalaureate environment. Additionally, the real estate program is housed at the Leonard Wood Center, the focus of which has been primarily graduate level MBA students. The team hopes that not only will the minor enable the center to focus more attention on undergraduate students, but that it will also enable more undergraduate non-Business majors to take courses at the Business School, alleviating current

bottlenecks. Millar closed with the tidbit that the real estate industry is currently seeking to diversify their employees and that current employer demand for graduates outstrips supply, something the proposed minor would be able to address. Associate Dean Thompson noted that many Interdisciplinary Studies majors interested in the real estate program struggle to enroll in business classes and enquired how the team hoped to address this issue given their desire to enroll primarily non-business majors. Millar and DeCastro confirmed that they are aware current Business School offerings are insufficient to meet the demand, and expressed their hope that the expansion of which the Real Estate Minor is a part, will better enable them to do so and improve accessibility for non-business majors. Associate Dean Russell asked about the prerequisite requirements, since many of the additional requirements and electives in the minor are quantitative heavy. Millar confirmed that the prerequisites requirements will mirror those for the Business Administration minor for the sake of consistency in advising. The proposal was approved.

6. Course Committee Report (3:40pm) – Associate Dean James Thompson, Office of Undergraduate Curricula

The report consisted of forty-six new courses, thirty-seven deactivations, and one hundred and five miscellaneous revisions. Thompson reminded members that the new courses did not include those requesting general education requirements in the new curriculum, and expressed his satisfaction with the number of deactivation requests, which are indicative of departments' desire to streamline their offerings. He drew the members attention to the new Triple-I course proposals, lauding them for their innovative mix of departments and disciplines. Panter thanked Thompson and the members of the Course Committee for their meticulous work.

7. New Undergraduate Minor: Human Development, Sustainability and Rights in Africa and the African Diaspora (3:45pm) – Profs. Kenneth Janken and Eunice Sahle, Department of African, African American, and Diaspora Studies

Panter invited Associate Professor Eunice Sahle to present a brief rationale for the proposal of the new minor in AAAD. Sahle began by reminding the Boards that this minor was previously reviewed in fall 2018, and that based on the excellent feedback they had received at the time the department made some substantial modifications that resulted in the current proposal. Sahle highlighted requests to further define 'development' within the context of the department, along with feedback regarding the core requirements of the minor, as major improvements in the proposal that ensure it looks at key issues as they relate to individuals from Africa or of African descent. Thompson concurred that he felt this version was much stronger than past iterations, and complimented the department on their efforts. Panter asked Associate Dean Russell how she thought students would react to the new minor; Russell indicated that the human rights aspect in particular and the program overall aligns with the values of our current students. Several members of the Boards concurred with Russell, and indicated that they could think of many students who would be interested in this type of program going forward. The proposal was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:57pm.