

**MINUTES**  
**MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARDS**  
**of the General College and the College of Arts and Sciences**  
**Tuesday, October 20, 2020**  
**3:30–5:00 PM**

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

Members in Attendance: Andrea Bohlman, Jessica Brinker, Katie Cartmell, Claude Clegg, Amy Cooke, Lauren DiGrazia, Nicole Else-Quest, Mara Evans, Beverly Foster, Li-ling Hsiao, Jennifer Larson, Lauren Leve, Aaron Moody, Barbara Osborne, Valerie Pruvost, Michelle Robinson, Chloe Russell, Keith Sawyer, Nick Siedentop, James Thompson, Lora Wical

Absent: Richard Langston, Ted Mouw, Jonathan Weiler, Lyneise Williams

Guests: Andrew Whittemore, Sandra Lazo de la Vega, Erika Wise, Elaine Yeh, Heather Ward

Staff: Genevieve Cecil

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**1. Updates and Remarks by Senior Associate Dean Abigail Panter (3:30pm)**

Senior Associate Dean Abigail Panter opened the meeting with a brief welcome statement and a reminder that the five spring 2021 instructional modes (*in-person, on-campus; in-person, on-campus plus remote learners; synchronous remote; mostly asynchronous remote; and fully asynchronous remote*) have been released, before providing a short recap of each mode. She stated that department chairs will be reaching out to faculty regarding their instructional mode preferences, and reminded everyone that the remote-only course capacity has been lowered and the Registrar hopes to have all spring courses appropriately tagged in ConnectCarolina by early November, ahead of student registration. Panter also reiterated that faculty will have the option to provide students with more information about their class(es) in the Notes section in ConnectCarolina. Panter then opened the floor for questions and concerns about spring 2021. Jennifer Larson asked about the representation on the committees involved in spring planning and asked if Directors of Undergraduate Studies and Student Services Managers were consulted regarding the course modality assignment timeline. Panter reviewed the composition of those committees directly involved with the process of assigning instructional modalities and indicated that feedback was solicited from a wide range of school and department faculty, as well as students, highlighting the inclusion of further course details in the Notes section of ConnectCarolina as a particular request from students. Larson mentioned that her unit felt excluded from the decision-making process and wanted to confirm that Humanities departments had been involved; Panter confirmed this, but also indicated she would be happy to discuss these concerns further after the meeting and revise communication with department/units if need be.

**2. New Dual Bachelor's-Master's Degree Program: City and Regional Planning: Associate Professor Andrew Whittemore and Program Coordinator Sandra Lazo de la Vega, Department of City and Regional Planning (3:40pm)**

Curriculum Director Nick Siedentop introduced the new dual Bachelor's-Master's degree program and Associate Professor Andrew Whittemore and Program Coordinator Sandra Lazo de la Vega from the Department of City and Regional Planning. Panter welcomed them and asked for a brief rationale of the proposed program. Whittemore began by stating that City and Regional Planning has seen increasing undergraduate enrollments in the last few years and believes this is a reflection of the field's increasing relevance. This new dual degree program is aimed primarily at students entering UNC as undergraduates with a significant number of credits already in place via exam or transfer credit. Lazo de la Vega mentioned that students have been historically interested in an undergraduate major in City and Regional Planning, which is not currently an option, and indicated that the department believes this will be an excellent opportunity for growth. Several members of the Board enquired about the expected enrollment in the program, as well as how the department intends to fund students. Lazo de la Vega replied that while graduate applications have held steady in recent years, they expect to see an increase given the current state of the economy although City and Regional Planning does not expect to see a large dual degree class given the heavy credit load. Whittemore stated that they expect to admit 2-3 students a year during the first few years and Lazo de la Vega confirmed that this is comparable to enrollment in other dual degree programs on campus, and that their department has considered the issue of funding thoroughly and has a variety of options to serve all types of students. Chloe Russell mentioned that careers associated with this field are considered to be both bright outlook (showing exponential growth) and sustainable careers, which supports the longevity of the program. When no further questions were forthcoming, Whittemore and Lazo de la Vega departed the meeting and the Board voted in favor of the program proposal.

**3. New Dual Bachelor's-Master's Degree Program: Environmental Studies and Geography (BA-MA) and Environmental Science and Geography (BS-MA): Associate Professor Erika Wise and Teaching Professor Gregory Gangi, Department of Geography & UNC Institute for the Environment (4:00pm)**

Panter next introduced Professors Erika Wise (Geography) and Gregory Gangi (E3P) and asked them to provide a brief rationale of the program proposals. Wise explained that this program expands the portfolio of existing dual degree programs in E3P (with several professional schools) and is a natural extension of existing programs in both units, including the recently approved minors in Geography. Gangi concurred that a broad number of students have found the existing programs appealing, including students from lower-income or less privileged backgrounds and that the department is excited to expand their portfolio of programs. Panter thanked the presenters and called for any comments or questions from the Board members. No questions were posed, so Wise and Gangi departed the meeting and the Board voted in favor of the program proposal.

#### **4. Study Abroad Proposals (UNC-Faculty-led Programs) (4:20pm)**

- A. Public Health, Entrepreneurship, and Food Systems in Southeast Asia**
- B. Smart and Connected Systems: Language, Culture Heritage, and Sport<sup>1</sup>**
- C. Making and Unmaking a Criminal: The Intersection of Criminal Justice and Health Law Policy**

Panter introduced Professor Elaine Yeh and Associate Dean Heather Ward from the Study Abroad Office to present the three UNC Faculty-led study abroad program proposals. Yeh began with a brief summary of each of the three program proposals. The first – Public Health, Entrepreneurship, and Food Systems in Southeast Asia – will be based out of the Kenan Foundation in Bangkok and is aimed at a wide variety of majors from across disciplines. Study Abroad felt this was an excellent opportunity to offer a course in an under-utilized region. Russell asked Yeh to expand upon the Honors Program partnership and Yeh confirmed this will be an honors course, though Ward reminded the Board that Honors study abroad courses are open to all students and do not have the same registration priority restrictions as on campus Honors sections. Yeh then introduced the Smart and Connected Systems program, which will leverage the faculty instructor’s relationship with a Barcelona football club to provide Exercise and Sports Science students a chance to study abroad, given it can be more difficult for them to go abroad than for other majors. Yeh then introduced the third and final program proposal on the intersection of criminal justice and health law policy in the UK. The faculty instructors are experienced in both the field and the region, and the courses are designed to appeal to a broad variety of students from fields as diverse as social justice, healthcare, and pre-law. Panter then called for questions and Thompson gave his approval of the first and third proposals, but expressed some concern as to the structure and foundation of the second program. Yeh confirmed that the Exercise and Sports Science course is the foundation, and Barbara Osborne confirmed that the use of science and physiology in the training of athletes in this region is groundbreaking and this program will enable students to participate in such research. Thompson proposed a restructuring of the course title to emphasis the program content; Yeh confirmed that the course was initially going to be taught in Spanish, but the language component was dropped in the review process, so they will revise the title. Panter thanked Osborne and the presenters for their information, and following Yeh and Ward’s departure each proposal was voted on by Board. All program proposals were approved.

#### **5. Updates on Advising Processes for Part-Time Degree-Seeking Students (4:40pm)**

Panter called on Jessica Brinker to provide an update on Advising processes for part-time degree-seeking students. Brinker began with a brief overview of the students involved, and then provided a short history to date of their processes. Traditionally the Friday Center has had oversight of part-time and continuing students, but Academic Advising felt that they did not have a good handle on who was designated as part of this group so they developed the Part-Time Continuing Studies (PTCS) Project Group to review processes related to three student

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<sup>1</sup> Based on feedback from the Boards, the title of this program was changed to “Smart Teams, Connected Culture: Technology, Innovation, and Engagement with Spain’s Past, Present, and Future.” Updated 12/03/2020.

groups: part-time degree seeking undergraduates, non-degree undergraduates and non-degree seeking graduate students. Brinker continued that her update involves the first group, which constitutes between 120-175 students in a given fall or spring term. The PTCS group felt that it wasn't in the best interests of the students to be excluded from services provided to other degree-seeking students on campus and has since expanded these students' access to many on-campus services, though the biggest change is how these students are advised. Brinker stated that part-time degree seeking undergraduates are now directed to the College's Academic Advising Program upon admittance, just like any other degree-seeking student and this transition and reassignment of existing part-time students will be completed by December 2020. Thompson asked whether the pandemic and remote learning will increase the number of part-time degree-seeking students and Brinker confirmed there would likely be an increase in numbers due to the current climate, although UNC does not currently market itself to this audience and more updates and revisions would need to occur before this would be possible. Russell commented that Academic Advising has tried to increase student access to online options where accreditation programs permit more leeway in terms of online-only courses, and that this information has been shared with the professional schools. Panter also pointed out that expanding part-time options works in the favor of both current and future students as it provides alternatives for students who might otherwise need to withdraw from classes. Panter then asked Brinker and Russell what would be most helpful to them at this point. Brinker and Russell confirmed that their presentation was meant primarily as an update and Panter thanked Brinker, Wical, and Russell for their work improving the system to better serve all students.

#### **6. Course Committee Report and Foreign Language Course Substitution List Report (4:50pm)**

Panter introduced Thompson to present the Course Committee report. The Committee has approved nine new courses and nineteen miscellaneous changes since the last Board meeting. Panter inquired about the Foreign Language Course Substitution list, kept by the Foreign Language Course Substitution committee. Thompson reminded everyone about the parameters of the list and how the course substitution works, and that updates continue to happen on a regular basis to keep balance between the disciplines and to ensure that the suggested substitutions are regularly offered.

Panter then called for final comments, questions, or concerns. She reiterated that she is here and wished all members well. The meeting adjourned at 4:47pm.