

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARDS
of the General College and the College of Arts and Sciences
Tuesday, October 26, 2021
3:30pm – 5:00pm

This meeting was held over Zoom

Attendees: Amy Cooke, Lauren DiGrazia, Nicole Else-Quest, Mara Evans, Li-ling Hsiao, Jennifer Larson, Lauren Leve, Aaron Moody, Barbara Osborne, Abigail Panter, Valerie Pruvost, Keith Sawyer, Nick Siedentop, James Thompson, Jonathan Weiler

Staff: Genevieve Cecil

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

Dean Panter welcomed the group and invited everyone to briefly introduce themselves. She acknowledged the challenges of this semester, particularly with recent experiences on campus, and offered her empathy and support for all members. She referred to continuing and recent efforts by individuals and institutions both on campus and across the nation to address the continuing impacts of the pandemic and the concurrent mental health crisis for students, as well as faculty and staff. She asked members who might want to work on this area of policy and communication to contact her. Dean Panter informed members that Prof. Erica Wise, former chair of the Mental Health Task Force is now assisting with the development of the College Thriving (FY-THRIVE) course for the new curriculum. She will remain connected with the program as the mental health consultant going forward. Dean Panter opened the floor for general questions, comments, or concerns. One member had questions relating to modes of instruction change requests for spring 2022; Lauren DiGrazia, the University Registrar, replied that their office automatically clears requests approved by the senior associate deans, so if a request is outstanding it is likely waiting for a dean's review. Dean Panter and DiGrazia will follow-up with the respective parties after the meeting in order to ensure any pending requests are addressed now that spring registration has begun. An additional question was posed regarding the percentage of in-person versus remote courses for spring and Dean Panter confirmed that the breakdown is similar to the fall semester, but the leadership team is closely following both mode of instruction requests and student registration. Once the first wave of the latter ends, they will be in a position to share more concrete data. Another member commented on the changes to undergraduate registration, noting the impact it had on units that require students to meet with a department advisor or faculty member prior to registering for courses. The Registrar confirmed that they have been consistently notifying students and staff about the pending changes, but that since this is a new process there are bound to be issues and they will be soliciting feedback after wave two for future adjustments and modifications. Dean Panter thanked everyone for their comments and introduced the first guest presenter.

Graduate Certificate in Film Studies (Department of English and Comparative Literature)

Guests: Martin Louis Johnson

Dean Panter invited Martin Johnson, Associate Professor of English and Comparative Literature, to present the department's proposal for a graduate certificate in film studies. The Department of English and Comparative Literature has hosted a longstanding interdisciplinary minor in Global Cinema, and in 2018 launched the successful undergraduate major concentration in Film Studies. Given the expertise of the film studies faculty, graduate students have increasingly sought coursework in the field, currently by enrolling in advanced undergraduate courses and film studies graduate level seminars. The proposed graduate certificate in film studies builds upon these foundations and capitalizes on this demand; UNC-Chapel Hill does not currently offer any degree program in film studies, making this a unique way to support graduate students seeking other kinds of employment in the film industry. The certificate was designed to be both interdisciplinary and flexible, allowing students to take courses at Duke via the inter-institutional agreement or conduct all their work on campus or within the department, while also building upon relationships with film instructors across campus. Several members inquired whether Johnson and the other program advisory board members had discussed the proposal with colleagues in other college units that offer film courses. Johnson stated that they had not, given that the majority of film studies faculty are housed in English and Comparative Literature, the department fully intends to assume the sole administrative burden of the new certificate, and that the program advisory board has members across a variety of departments who all approved the proposal. Members continued to press for additional details regarding the interdisciplinary nature of the program, and Johnson confirmed that while they want students to be able to take courses from a variety of units on campus, they do not expect those units to regularly offer sections and the program was designed so that students can complete the requirements solely within English and Comparative Literature. Several members with experience managing graduate level certificate programs encouraged Johnson and the program advisory board to consult their colleagues to ensure that students outside English and Comparative Literature who may want to participate are not unfairly disadvantaged due to conflicting degree requirements within their home units. Members also requested clarification as to the intended participant pool. Johnson confirmed that the proposal targets doctoral students, as the advisory board did not want to compete with existing masters-level film studies programs elsewhere in the UNC system or impact time-to-degree completion for masters-level students at UNC; doctoral students have more time and flexibility to complete a 3-course certificate program than a masters student. Dean Panter thanked Johnson for his time and Johnson thanked the Boards for their consideration and left the call. Dean Panter then solicited additional feedback, questions, and concerns from members. One member noted that with the increase in graduate transfer student athletes, the demand for programs such as this among masters students is quite high, and expressed her concern that the advisory board may not have considered this population when designing the program and could potentially be limiting their growth. Nick Siedentop, Curriculum Director, reminded the Boards that the proposal had already been approved in its current state by both the department advisory board and the Administrative Boards of the Graduate School. Dean Panter thanked everyone for their constructive feedback and called for a vote. The majority of members voted to return the proposal with feedback to the department for resubmission at a future meeting.

Course Committee Report (James Thompson)

Dean Panter invited James Thompson, Professor and Associate Dean of Undergraduate Curricula, to present the course committee report. The committee approved 42 course changes and 8 miscellaneous changes at their October meeting. Thompson urged members to review the report to see the types of courses being approved for general education requirements. Dean Panter thanked members of the committee present on the call for their hard work and citizenship.

Program Proposal Report (Nick Sientop)

Sientop was then invited to present the program proposal report. He reminded the Boards that the undergraduate curriculum deadline was Wednesday, 20 October 2021. The report presented minor changes requested by five undergraduate majors and six minor programs. Sientop shared the link to the CIM-Programs module and invited members of the Boards to review the changes in markup on the actual forms.

Dean Panter thanked everyone for their time, reiterated her offers of support, and the meeting adjourned at 4:20pm.