**Academic Affairs Committee**

**Minutes for Meeting No.8**

**Wednesday, February 19, 2025**

**5:30 P.M.**

**Founders Suite (lounge side on the right), Bone Student Center**

**Call to Order**

**Roll Call**: Blum, Han, Ionescu, Nikolaou, Seifert, Werner-Powell, Bever, Blair, Montoya, Sharp, Trader, *Hurd (AVP for Undergraduate Education)*. (Note: quorum is six voting members; *ex-officio*).

Present: Blum, Han, Nikolaou, Seifert, Werner-Powell, Bever, Blair, Montoya, Sharp, Trader, Hurd.

Absent: Ionescu.

**Public Comment(s)** – None

**Order of Business:**

1. Approval of *Minutes#06AAC01.22.25* and *Minutes#07AAC02.05.25*
	* Senator Montoya moved to approve, and Senator Blair seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.
2. Oral Communications
3. Policy 4.1.21 Distance Education
	* The most important change was how we treat professional practice and teacher education courses since it is not a faculty member, and it is someone else at the place of the professional practice supervising the student. Because the policy says instruction will be delivered by instruction of record, we need to add a definition for an instructor of record for such cases.
	* Added language that the provost or designee will approve interdisciplinary courses.
	* Move the section about course modality after the definition of distance education and before program modality.
	* All members present agreed with these changes.
4. General Education Revision

*AAC General Education Recommendation*

* + Changes made in the General Education proposal:
		- Added language in all categories to clarify that all listed learning outcomes should be met by courses approved for each category. The Experimental Learning and Civic Engagement category did not change since it already states that two or more learning outcomes should be met.
		- Under Exploring the Human Condition, Humanities was replaced by the *human experience* since the category describes courses that fit into other disciplines besides Humanities, such as Social Sciences.
		- For the STEM category under Courses in this Category, we deleted the first sentence that required two STEM disciplines. After consultation with CGE, the consensus was that the intention is to require at least one STEM discipline, but the second discipline could be STEM or non-STEM.
		- For the Scientific Literacy category under Courses in this Category, replace the wording from *the study of scientific methodology* to the *study of scientific content and methodologies used to gain scientific understanding*, so that it is inclusive of introductory science courses.
	+ Senator Blum moved to approve, and Senator Blair seconded. Nine in favor of approving the General Education Program Revision and one against. The motion to approve the revisions to the General Education Program passes, and the Committee will send it to the Executive Committee for their consideration.

*Policies Related to General Education Revision*

The document includes two policies referencing the General Education program. If the Academic Senate approves the proposed revisions to the General Education Program, we will need to revise Policy 2.1.12 Credit/No Credit – Pass/No Pass and Policy 2.1.9 Baccalaureate Degree Programs. The Undergraduate Catalog should also be revised to reflect the changes to the General Education Program.

* + Policy 2.1.12 Credit/No Credit – Pass/No Pass:
		- Delete the sentence under “Courses not eligible to be taken P/NP” that refers to Group 1 in the General Education Program.
		- Replace semester hours with credit hours.
		- We are checking what are the “Institute Courses” referenced in the last paragraph of the policy. We will delete the word from the policy if such courses do not represent an official course type.
		- Senator Seifert moved to approve the changes to Policy 2.1.12, conditional on the Academic Senate approving the revised General Education Program. Senator Blair seconded. Nine in favor of approving the changes to the Undergraduate Catalog and one against. The motion to approve the revisions to Policy 2.1.12 passes, and the Committee will send it to the Executive Committee for their consideration.
	+ Policy 2.1.9 Baccalaureate Degree Programs:
		- Adding five bullet points under “General Education Policies” about prerequisites, major-blocking, listing under multiple categories, requiring completion of courses in each of the eleven categories, and a 5-year review process.
		- Senator Sharp requested clarification about whether a class can go under two categories and whether it can count for more than one graduation requirement. The committee added language to clarify that a General Education course can meet AMALI graduation requirements. Similarly, for the IDEAS graduation requirements.
		- A course can only be listed under one of the categories consistent with the current structure of the General Education Program.
		- Deleting item 4 as it refers to exemptions from one General Education category as the language relates to the previous program.
		- Delete the last sentence under the Bachelor of Arts section, as a Quantitative Reasoning category will not exist if the revised General Education Program passes.
		- Removing the University Curriculum Committee from the Policy Owner since the committee is now the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee.
		- Senator Werner-Powell moved to approve the changes to Policy 2.1.9, conditional on the Academic Senate approving the revised General Education Program. Senator Blair seconded. Nine in favor of approving the changes to Policy 2.1.9 and one against. The motion to approve the revisions to Policy 2.1.9 passes, and the Committee will send it to the Executive Committee for their consideration.
	+ Undergraduate Catalog:
		- Replacing the purpose of the General Education Program to reflect the American Association of Colleges and Universities.
		- Referring to 11 instead of 13 courses and 33 instead of 39 credit hours.
		- Replacing the previous categories with the new 11 categories.
		- Deleting the reference to all courses under the current General Education Program. These courses will be replaced with the courses approved under the new General Education Program.
		- Senator Sharp requested to include abbreviations for the 11 new categories. Senator Hurd replied that they do not know the new coding system yet since we still need to maintain the current codes for students under the current or an older General Education Program.
		- Change freshman and sophomore years/students to first and second years/students.
		- Senator Blum moved to approve the changes to the Undergraduate Catalog, conditional on the Academic Senate approving the revised General Education Program. Senator Blair seconded. Nine in favor of approving the changes to the Undergraduate Catalog and one against. The motion to approve the revisions to the Undergraduate Catalog passes, and the Committee will send it to the Executive Committee for their consideration.
	+ Draft Implementation Plan
		- The draft plan is presented as information to the committee for inclusion in the material to be distributed to the Academic Senate. AAC does not vote to approve the specifics of the implementation plan.
		- Two processes for approving courses in the new General Education Program: (1) an expedited process for courses that maintain 75% of their current course content (as evaluated by the Council for General Education), have no prerequisites, maintain the same number of credit hours, and are proposed to a similar General Education category; and (2) a standard approval process for new courses and for existing courses that do not meet the previous requirements.
		- Added clarification that CGE will evaluate whether approximately 75% of the current course content remains the same. The 75% is similar to the threshold used for AMALI and IDEAS courses.
		- Senator Hurd clarified that existing courses would need to change their course learning outcomes to match the learning outcomes under the proposed new categories. Each course should have an anchor syllabus with regards to topics coverage when submitted through the curriculum process, which is used no matter the instructor.
		- CGE can submit a request to the Academic Senate to increase their membership to facilitate approval of courses in the revised program.
		- Assessment for the revised program will follow the existing General Education Program assessment with support from University Assessment Services.
		- Senator Blair asked about Coursedog and wondered if it was misspelled. Coursedog is the new curriculum system that the University will be implementing.

Senator Blair moved to adjourn, and Senator Bever seconded. Everyone was in favor.

**Adjourn**