

University Undergraduate Programs Committee Meeting Minutes – April 23, 2010

Members present: Chair Jerry Haky, SC; Ann Branaman, AL; Anita Pennathur, BA; Ellen Ryan, CAUPA; Peggy Goldstein, ED; Yan Yong, EG; Joy Longo, NU; Victoria Thur, Library; Dean Edward Pratt, Undergraduate Studies; Elissa Rudolph and Maria Jennings, Registrar's Office. Absent: Miguel Vázquez, HC.

Jerry Haky called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

I. Minutes and Announcements

1. Minutes: The minutes of the March 19, 2010, meeting were reviewed and approved.

2. Announcements: Chair Haky informed committee members that anything approved at today's meeting will not be reviewed by the University Faculty Senate (UFS) until its first meeting of the fall. He also announced that Elissa Rudolph from the Registrar's Office will be retiring from FAU at the end of May. He and the committee thanked Elissa for her many years of service to the UUPC.

3. Request: Maria Jennings, Registrar's Office, requested the committee's permission to accept minor course changes over the summer while the committee does not meet (as done during the past summers). Chair Haky and the committee agreed to allow this, but asked Jennings to inform the committee if too many changes are submitted. If that is the case, this permission needs to be revisited.

II. Old Business

1. Tabled item: ENC 1939, Special Topics: College Writing 2, (Arts and Letters course) was tabled once again. The Writing Across Curriculum approval that was missing last month is now attached, but it is still missing approval as a General Education course.

III. New Business University-Wide

1. Revision to Baccalaureate Degree Requirements

Undergraduate Studies Dean Ed Pratt presented a revision to the University's Baccalaureate Degree Requirements, changing the percentage of upper-division courses students are required to complete in the major department at FAU from 50 percent to 75 percent (item 5). The changes appear below in red.

5. Earn at least **75** percent of all upper-division **credits** in the major department from FAU. **Some major departments may require more than 75 percent. Consult the degree requirements section of the major for details.**

Dean Pratt explained the reason for the change is a concern that with the growth of state colleges, students will take courses in their major at the state colleges instead of completing those at FAU. Ann Branaman (AL) asked about transfers who already come in to FAU with 50 percent of their courses. Those students won't be able to meet the new 75 percent rule. Dean Pratt responded that exceptions can be made. These students would have to petition.

With no further discussion, the UUPC approved this change.

2. Changes in Policy Regarding Double Majors

Dean Pratt also submitted revisions to the University policy on double majors allowing students to receive double majors across two degrees as opposed to the current policy that only allows double majors within one degree. The proposed policy appears below.

Undergraduate students may pursue two majors. If the two majors are in different degrees, such as a B.A. and a B.S., students will receive the degree in the major that they have designated as their primary major. A double major does not require a minimum number of hours beyond those necessary for completing degree requirements (120 or more hours). To graduate with double majors, students must first declare the primary college and major of their choice on the application for admission. Then, undergraduates must inform the second college and department of their intent by completing a Second Major form, available in the Office of the Registrar. Undergraduates must consult with both departments to ensure that all courses needed for graduation are completed. The same Catalog year must be used for both majors. **A minimum of 21 credit hours must be applied exclusively toward requirements in the primary major.** Students may not pursue a double major in the same academic program, such as a B.A. and B.S. in Biology.

Students wishing to pursue a second major and receive two different degrees should refer to the requirements for a Second Baccalaureate Degree, appearing in the Degree Requirements section of this catalog.

The UUPC approved this proposal.

3. Quality Enhancement Plan (informational item)

Dean Pratt informed the committee about the upcoming SACS reaccreditation for FAU. The University as a whole must prepare and implement a plan to enhance undergraduate programs, including upper division and lower division. He explained this process will be a major undertaking for the University, involving the creation of several committees and input from all groups. The University is prepared to commit resources to this project. An idea must be in place by next spring.

4. Framework for Pilot Assessment of General Education (informational item)

FAU's General Education program will soon be reviewed to ensure it is meeting the needs of the University. Dean Pratt explained that the pilot assessment will be handled by the General Education Committee. The committee will begin by reviewing the syllabi for 4 to 6 courses in the program to ensure they are meshing with the program's educational objectives. The assessment also includes surveying students to make sure learning objectives are being met.

IV. New Business from the Colleges

1. The College of Architecture, Urban and Public Affairs (changing its name to the College for Design and Social Inquiry in summer 2010) had two proposals affecting GPAs.

A. In an endeavor to raise the overall academic caliber, outcome performance, and professional integrity of CCJ students, the **School of Criminology and Criminal Justice (SCCJ)** is beginning to embark on a series of reforms that will, among other things, reduce its over-reliance on adjuncts, improve the academic standards and accountability of remaining adjunct courses, implement more frequent and rigorous writing requirements, and reduce class size. It has become apparent that borderline students who had previously managed to "just get

by" would be unlikely to be able to meet more rigorous academic standards. In conjunction with the school's overall quality-focused reform initiatives, it is **requesting to institute a 2.5 overall GPA requirement to declare an undergraduate major in the SCCJ**. As of Spring 2010, 266 of 1008 CCJ majors fall below the 2.5 threshold.

Currently, there is no GPA minimum other than University minimums for enrollment. The SCCJ proposes to implement the 2.5 minimum GPA requirement by not accepting either transfer students or FAU students to declare a CCJ major if the student's GPA is below an overall average of 2.5.

B. The School of Social Work requests to institute a 2.5 overall GPA requirement to declare a BSW major. Presently, students must have an FAU GPA of 2.5 in order to enter their final field internship semester.

The reasons for change include the following:

- The BSW program has in place a "five year rule," meaning that students must complete their core social work classes within a five-year time span. (This rule helps to ensure that students entering internship and subsequent practice have current professional knowledge and skills.) Students with lower GPA's sometimes fall outside of the five years in their attempts to raise the GPA by taking additional courses. By having the 2.5 average in place before starting their core social work courses, students may complete their major in a timely manner.
- The BSW prepares students for direct practice with clients in agencies that require excellent communication, documentation, and problems solving skills. Students must have the ability to apply concepts and theories learned in the classroom to practice situations. By requiring the 2.5 minimum GPA, social work practice classes can better prepare students for the realities of practice while lower-performing students can concentrate on improving basic skills in non-social work courses.
- Students will have a more realistic grasp of their abilities and aptitude for social work earlier in their program of study, thus reducing the need for change of major after significant output of time and money on their part.

The BSW program proposes to implement the 2.5 minimum GPA requirement in the following manner:

- Neither FAU nor transfer students with less than a 2.5 overall average will be able to declare social work as their major.
- If the GPA falls below 2.5 after they have declared the BSW major, students will be unable to enter practice classes, normally taken during their last three semesters, until GPA is once again 2.5.
- Students with declared social work majors will retain that status though the GPA falls below 2.5. Rationale is that students starting with a 2.5 will need less time to regain that average should they have difficulty with one or two particular classes. While waiting to enroll in practice courses, they will be advised to retake classes that resulted in a lower GPA.

Dean Pratt addressed a concern regarding the two GPA increases mentioned above and students who are displaced by these increases. He suggested that colleges should have a plan in place for the students they are displacing. Perhaps keeping some majors in the college at 2.0 would help, but others argued that the majors keeping the 2.0 GPA would be adversely affected by the quality of students and challenged with the resources required to take in extra students.

After this discussion, the UUPC voted in favor of the two GPA proposals from CAUPA.

2. Course change from the College of Education:

EEX 4763	Special Education Technology	3	Remove prereqs. and coreqs.
----------	------------------------------	---	-----------------------------

UUPC approved the College of Education course change.

3. New course from the College of Engineering and Computer Science:

CET 4035*	Professional Issues for Information Engineering Technology	3	New
-----------	--	---	-----

* This course will be for students in the Bachelor in Information Engineering Technology program. It was approved by the Information Technology and Operations Management Department.

The new CET course was approved by UUPC.

4. New course from the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science:

AST 3110**	Solar System Astronomy	3	New
------------	------------------------	---	-----

** This course was approved by the Geosciences Department.

The College of Science proposal was approved by the UUPC.

V. Next Meeting/Adjournment

The schedule of meetings for the next academic year was discussed briefly. Chair Haky explained that he prefers meeting on the same day as the UFS meetings. The committee agreed. Jennings added that as soon as UFS sets its dates for 2010-2011, she will confirm the dates with Haky and email the committee. It was agreed that the time for the meetings will remain as 10 a.m. to noon and SU 132 will remain the meeting room of choice unless it is booked. The first meeting will be in early September.

This meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.