MINUTES

Present: T. Chinn (Student/LAS), W. Goldenberg (VPA), D. Gorman (LAS), J. Isabel (HHS), C. Jones (LAS), C. T. Lin (LAS), C. Malecki (LAS), K. Mantzke (BUS), S. Morris (HHS), E. Seaver (Vice Provost), D. Shernoff (EDU), C. Snow (LIB), J. Stephen (LAS), C. T. Lin (LAS), C. Malecki (LAS), K. Mantzke (BUS), S. Morris (HHS), E. Seaver (Vice Provost), D. Shernoff (EDU), C. Snow (LIB), J. Stephen (LAS), J. Wolfskill (Substitute Representative for A. Doederlein/LAS)

Absent: A. Azad (EET), A. Doederlein (LAS), B. Hart (VPA), B. Henry (HHS), S. Johnston-Rodriguez (EDU), M. Kostic (EET), J. Tharnstrom (Student/SA)

Guest: D. Smith, Catalog Editor/Curriculum Coordinator

I. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made by C. Snow, seconded by C. T. Lin, to approve the agenda. The motion carried.

II. Announcements

A. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the April 2, 2009, UCC meeting were electronically approved.

III. Reports/Minutes from Standing Committees

A. Admissions Policies and Academic Standards Committee

W. Goldenberg reported on the April 1, 2009, meeting of the Admissions Policies and Academic Standards Committee meeting. The primary topics of discussion were approval of curriculum changes in the B.S.Ed. in Health Education and the addition of language ("a minimum of nine semester hours") to the “Certificate of Undergraduate Study” section on page 44 of the 2008-2009 undergraduate catalog. In addition, the committee discussed admission criteria wording for the newly proposed program, B.S. in Applied Management, and tabled this item for reconsideration at the May APASC meeting.

W. Goldenberg made a motion, seconded by D. Gorman, to receive the April 1, 2009, minutes of the Admissions Policies and Academic Standards Committee meeting. The motion carried.
B. General Education Committee

D. Gorman reported that the committee discussed and reviewed the baccalaureate review process and began a dialogue on how GEC should be discussing the current general education goals and how they could be improved.


C. Honors Committee

There was no report, however, C. Snow provided a status report on the Honors Director Search.

D. Committee on the Improvement of Undergraduate Education

K. Mantzke reported that at the March 16, 2009, CIUE meeting, the committee reviewed nominations and approved final selections of the recipients of the Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching and Instruction awards.

K. Mantzke made a motion, seconded by D. Gorman, to receive the March 16, 2009, minutes of the Committee on the Improvement of Undergraduate Education Committee meeting. The motion carried.

E. Committee on the Undergraduate Academic Environment

J. Isabel reported on the February 10, 2009, meeting of the Committee on the Undergraduate Academic Environment. The committee heard updates from guest speakers on MyNIU and the Baccalaureate Review process and was provided with information regarding the Foundations of Excellence® initiative. The committee also discussed the issue of lack of courtesy and helpfulness towards students on campus and initiatives being taken to assist in making the campus more student friendly in order to help students more easily navigate.

J. Isabel made a motion, seconded by S. Morris, to receive the February 10, 2009, minutes of the Committee on the Undergraduate Academic Environment Committee meeting. The motion carried.

F. Committee on the Undergraduate Curriculum

D. Shernoff reported that at the April 16, 2009, meeting the committee received several sets of college curriculum committee minutes, discussed and approved several curricular items, and reviewed the contract majors for the 2007-2008 academic year. The committee also approved the new interdisciplinary degree, B.S. in Applied Management, which will be housed in the Office of the Provost.

D. Shernoff made a motion, seconded by C. Snow, to receive the April 16, 2009, minutes of the Committee on the Undergraduate Curriculum meeting. The motion carried.
IV. **Other Reports**

A. **University Assessment Panel**

There was no report.

V. **Old Business**

A. **Catalog language regarding more than 66 hours of CC work being used to meet degree requirements – Follow-up (APASC Minutes 03/04/09)**

W. Goldenberg reported that he relayed to the APASC Committee at its May 6, 2009, meeting the objections expressed by UCC at its April meeting regarding the 66 hours of community college work being used to meet degree requirements. The first objection raised by UCC was the concern that the large number of transfer hours being brought in by transfer students would be moved way ahead in the priority line for registration, which would allow the transfer students to have an unfair advantage over native students in being able to register for courses. W. Goldenberg stated that the general feeling of APASC was that this was a good point. He said that APASC has referred this issue to the office of Registration and Records, which will research during the summer how to set this up so that that situation does not occur. Registration and Records will report back to APASC with a proposal to handle this situation at the beginning of the fall semester. He also said that a second objection by UCC was to clarify how the particular 66 hours of community college work to be counted towards the degree would be determined.

E. Seaver commented that Registration and Records has already begun gathering data. The information gathered will be taken back to APASC in the fall to address the issues of how the transfer hours will be counted and how many and which transfer students (from community colleges, from four-year institutions, etc.) are actually being affected by this. B. Stephen asked how and if a process is being considered to “rank” or define students who have been at NIU to allow them to register first rather than transfer students. E. Seaver replied that, in the first semester that transfer students come, that situation would not happen, because transfer students are not allowed to register until after orientation which occurs after open registration begins. He added that it would be an issue the following semester, however. E. Seaver again said that it needs to be determined how many students are really being affected and how the situation should be handled. He said that APASC hopes to have a decision by November.

J. Wolfskill, UCC substitute for A. Doederlein and representative from APASC, distributed a copy of a presentation that David Wade, Chair of APASC, made at the April APASC meeting to help clarify and explain the 66-hour catalog language approved by APASC. He explained that the issue of policy for transfer credit from community colleges generated a lot of discussion in APASC, and, following lengthy discussion, APASC did agree on the proposed policy, which he noted is summarized in the handout. He reviewed the current policy and previous practice which was that community college transfer hours were limited to 66, as opposed to transfer credit from four-year institutions which is unlimited. He said it did happen in many cases that a student would transfer from community college with more than 66 articulated hours. In those cases, the student would negotiate with the student’s major college advisor for a specific package of those 66 hours. He added that, often, the case would be later that the student would change major or interest and would want to renegotiate a different set of 66 hours. He said it was his understanding that this was typically done routinely and was
something that had to be done. As happened with many policies of this sort, when this was implemented into MyNIU, rather than with the rules and effect of the rules, it was not quite right; this led to some problems that generated to the discussion at APASC. At the conclusion of APASC’s discussion, the proposed policy was generated.

Wolfskill asked committee members to refer to the diagrams in the handout as he explained the proposed policy. He said that students may transfer in, under the proposed policy, an unlimited number of articulated hours from a community college and may apply these hours toward meeting particular requirements in a major, minor, general education or elective requirements. However, it is still the intent to enforce the 66 hour limit as the number of hours that may apply toward the 120 required hours for graduation. He explained that this will actually be implemented and coded into MyNIU as a requirement of a minimum of 54 hours from other sources rather than a limit of 66 hours (because all community college hours are to show on the student’s transcript and all those hours can meet specific course requirements). In other words, aside from the community college transfer hours, the student must have at least 54 hours from the following courses: NIU hours, test credit hours (proficiency credit), hours from a four-year school (which are not limited), and up to eight hours (four of which may be from a community college) of physical education hours. He stated that the catalog language would read as follows:

“Students may transfer up to 66 academic semester hours plus 4 semester hours of physical education activity courses. Credit hours in excess of 66 will be displayed on the student’s transcript; however, in all cases, the student will be required to complete at least 54 semester hours from the following sources: NIU credit, credit from other 4-year schools, proficiency credit, and up to 8 semester hours of physical education activity credit of which up to 4 physical education activity credit hours may be earned at community colleges.”

J. Wolfskill also said that APASC has addressed the issue of the impact on registration queue priorities. He reported that it was agreed at APASC that this is a significant issue. However, the opinion of APASC is that working out a definitive transfer policy is more important, and the committee believes their proposal is a fair one. The APASC committee would like the proposal put into place as soon as possible, particularly since there are students coming in during the orientation season in the summer. The APASC committee believes they can resolve the queuing issue at the committee’s first meeting of the fall semester in September, 2009, and come up with a fair answer to that in time to implement it for spring 2010 registration which will begin in November.

J. Wolfskill said that the situation of a student coming in for a second degree was not considered or discussed at APASC. He said his understanding is that would apply toward the residence rule. E. Seaver said that he thinks that a student in this situation would be protected by the 30 hours. Wolfskill said he would think of that as a theoretical but extremely rare possibility.

E. Seaver thanked John Wolfskill for his presentation. After further discussion, the following motion was made:

A motion was made by W. Goldenberg, seconded by D. Gorman, to receive the section of the March 4, 2009, minutes of the Admissions Policies and Academic Standards Committee meeting, under Old Business, Item A, “Catalog language
regarding more than 66 hours of CC work being used to meet degree requirements” which includes approval of the above catalog language. The motion carried.

VI. New Business

A. Selection of UCC Faculty Representative to the University Assessment Panel

Sherrill Morris volunteered, with no objections heard, to serve a second year as UCC faculty representative to the University Assessment Panel for the 2009-2010 academic year. Selection of a student representative will be made in the fall 2009.

B. Selection of Faculty Chair for 2009-2010

Cason Snow volunteered and, with the consensus of UCC committee members, was approved to serve as Faculty-Co-Chair of UCC for the 2009-2010 academic year.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

The next UCC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 3, 2009, beginning at 1:00 p.m., in Altgeld Hall 203.

Respectfully submitted,
Mollie Montgomery