Northern Illinois University

UNDERGRADUATE COORDINATING COUNCIL

215th Meeting

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Altgeld Hall 203

MINUTES

APPROVED

Present: G. Aase/BUS; M. Ayers/LIB; M. Barnes/VPA; A. Birberick/Vice Provost; F. Bryan/LAS; A. Ferguson (BUS); E. Klonoski/Acting Associate Vice Provost; M. Johns (LAS); M. Konen/LAS; J. Kot/LAS; M. Shokrani/HHS; S. Sibley (HHS); J. Stacey (student/LAS); L. Sunderlin (LAS)

Absent: T. Adeboje (student); T. Atkins/LAS (F ’15 leave); P. Braun/HHS; C. Campbell/EDU; L. Guo/ EET (F’15 sabbatical); J. Knapp (student/HHS); F. Sciammarella/EET;

Guests: D. Smith, Catalog Editor/Curriculum Coordinator; J. Ratfield, Vice Provost’s Administrative Assistant

I. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made by M. Shokrani, seconded by L. Sunderlin to adopt the agenda moving New Business, Selection of Representatives to UCC standing committees, up in the Agenda to follow Other Reports. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Election of Committee Faculty Chair for 2015/2016


III. Approval of minutes from September 3, 2015 meeting

A Ferguson made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 3, 2015 meeting, seconded by M. Shokrani. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Reports/Minutes from Standing Committees

A. Admissions Policies and Academic Standards Committee

No minutes to receive.
B. Committee on the Improvement of Undergraduate Education

Birberick reported on this meeting from last spring. At this point the committee’s business was complete. She pointed out that this committee is the one that awards the Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching and Instructor awards as well as the David Raymond Technology in Teaching award. They received an update on PLUS and the curricular committee restructuring from Ed Klonoski.

J. Kot made a motion to receive the minutes from the CIUE April 6, 2015 minutes, seconded by M. Shokrani. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Committee on the Undergraduate Academic Environment

No minutes to receive.

D. Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum

G. Aase suggested that the other committees may be encouraged to approve their minutes electronically as CUC does to get them to UCC in a timelier manner.

G. Aase reported on the CUC minutes from the September 10, 2015 meeting. He highlighted CUC’s main responsibilities. Explaining the materials that accompany the minutes (Section A, B, C, D) contain the actual catalog changes. He talked briefly about the COE minutes #10 and #11. A new course proposed in #10 passed with no objection. COE #11 contained three new KNPE courses. Their discussion focused mainly on KNPE 302, which is assessment in physical education school settings.

He highlighted LA&S #14 which contains a new certificate program in Sustainable Food Systems; it contains field as well as course work. Birberick added this is very exciting and is a great collaborative effort not only with the community but with the colleges also. Lastly Aase talked about a new course in Psychology, PSYC 475, Trauma Psychology, which also passed.

G. Aase made a motion to receive the CUC minutes from the September 10, 2015 meeting, seconded by J. Kot. Motion passed unanimously.

E. General Education Committee

No minutes to receive.
F. University Honors Committee

M. Shokrani reported. His report included statistics regarding the 161 new freshmen admits. There ACT scores average and 3.91 GPAs. It was the last meeting of the year.

L. Sunderlin made a motion to receive the May 1, 2015 Honors minutes, seconded by M. Konen. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Other Reports

A. University Assessment Panel

M. Ayers reported on the first meeting of the UAP. They reviewed responsibilities, checklists and how to use rubrics while reading the assessment reports. She said they rescheduled the speaker from fall to spring which will be relevant to all the work being done for program prioritization. She announced the Assessment Expo will be on April 1st in the HSC Skyroom. There is a call out for capstone proposals. They also discussed funding requests and how they would go through them. She said there is not as much funding as previously.

V. New Business

Selection of Representatives to UCC Standing committees:
The following individuals volunteered to serve:

APASC - Rick Johns
CIUE - Amanda Ferguson
CUAE - Michael Barnes
CUC - Gerald Aase
GEC - Joanna Kot and Ferald Bryan
HONORS - Masih Shokrani

VI. Old Business

A. Course Repeat Policy

Birberick gave the background on this issue. The Faculty Senate brought the issue to UCC last year. There was also interest from the Student Association. The current repeat policy was reviewed. Birberick referred committee members to documents that were included in the meeting agenda. The current undergraduate catalog language was included as well as the information gathered last year. That
information included comparison with other Illinois institutions as well as MAC institutions. There is a narrative summary of the findings as well. Birberick said that NIU’s current repeat policy allows for repeat of a course if a grade of D or F is received. If an F is received the course can be repeated at another institution or NIU. If a D is received the course can only be repeated at NIU. Transferred course grades are not calculated in the NIU GPA.

She indicated other discussions, at the level of Curricular Deans and Advising Directors, have brought forward the way repeated courses figure into GPA. At NIU, a course can be repeated twice, three time with permission. The final attempt is the grade that counts toward GPA.

Birberick added that during these conversations it was brought up that why are repeats allowed for only D and F grades. In the research that was done, there is evidence that other institutions allow repeats for any course, any grade. If the repeat policy opened up to include any grade, what would the impact be? There was also discussion about whether there would be a cap on the number of repeats allowed for students by term or per career.

Birberick said that Rebecca Babel from Financial Aid spoke about the impact repeats have on student's financial aid at a committee last year as well. Once credit is earned in a course, financial aid will not cover an additional attempt.

There was much discussion about the various permutations of changing the policy. Some of that discussion included resources; how/when would students wanting to repeat be allowed to register.

Birberick recommended APASC take this issue up. The committee members agreed that it would go to APASC with some adjustments to the Summary of Findings and provide them with all the other information. APASC should come up with a recommendation for the policy.

VII. Adjournment

R. Johns made a motion, seconded by A. Ferguson to adjourn @ 2:15 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Ratfield  
Administrative Assistant  
Office of the Provost