

**MINUTES OF
UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON CURRICULA
September 24, 2014**

UCC Members Present: K. Basom, A. Chatham-Carpenter, R. Christ, K. Martin, S. Riehl, D. Wallace

Absent: A. Gabriele, P. Patton, C. Wang

Guests: P. Baker, B. Bass, J. Cooley, T. Evans, J. Fritch, D. Heistad, K. Johnson, G. Rhineberger-Dunn, L. Terlip, S. Varzavand

The meeting was called to order by UCC Chair Chatham-Carpenter at 3:15 p.m. in Presidential Room, Maucker Union.

I. Introduction and Welcome

Chair Chatham-Carpenter welcomed members from the University Curriculum Committee (UCC) and guests. This was followed by introductions.

II. Discussion of Bachelor of Applied Sciences (BAS) Degree

Chair Chatham-Carpenter opened by citing the *Report of the B.A.S. Degree Task Force* dated April 30, 2014 (which had been sent to all UCC members via email), which stated that on 12/18/13 Executive Vice President and Provost Gloria Gibson charged the B.A.S. task force "to explore the feasibility of establishing programs at the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) Leading to a B.A.S. degree." Chatham-Carpenter stated President Ruud also wants to pursue the feasibility of establishing a B.A.S. degree at UNI.

Chair Chatham-Carpenter indicated the purpose of this UCC meeting was to discuss the structure of this B.A.S. degree and provide a recommendation to Faculty Senate.

Chair Chatham-Carpenter stated that neither University of Iowa or Iowa State University currently has a Bachelor of Applied Sciences degree. She indicated University of Iowa did have a Bachelor of Applied Studies. She also indicated the prospect of a B.A.S. degree had been sent to College deans and there was interest expressed at various department levels for specific programs.

Chatham-Carpenter indicated she had asked various guests to this meeting which included members of the B.A.S. task force as well as interested departments. Members of the B.A.S. Task Force were as follows:

- Brenda Bass, Dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
- Mohammed Fahmy, Head of the Department of Technology (now retired)
- John Fritch, Associate Dean in the College of Humanities, Arts, and Sciences
- Deedee Heistad, Director of the Liberal Arts Core
- Kent Johnson, Dean of the Division of Continuing Education and Special Programs
- Mike Licari, Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Graduate College (Chair of Task Force)
- Jerry Smith, Chair of the Faculty Senate

Chatham-Carpenter asked a member of the task force to provide further information on their findings/discussion.

As a member of the B.A.S. task force, Kent Johnson indicated the task force first discussed the feasibility of a B.A.S. degree at UNI and ascertained that it was feasible to establish a number of programs at UNI that would lead to a B.A.S. degree. He indicated the B.A.S. degree is a viable and successful degree program across the country. Johnson indicated the task force presented the following considerations and challenges:

- given the nature of the degree, the typical student pursuing this would be those in A.S. (Associate of Science) or A.A.S. (Associate of Applied Science) degree programs
- degree should focus on content-area courses with less Liberal Arts Core

- task force didn't recommend any specifics regarding the foreign language graduation requirement or Liberal Arts Core since that wasn't their charge
- the degree program would be "layered on top" of their current degree
- identifying interest program areas
- curriculum development and how that will blend with the degree received at community colleges
- admission criteria
- accreditations
- delivery methods since many of these students may be demographically bound since they are already in careers

D. Heistad, Director of Liberal Arts Core, stated that based on the student having an A.S. or A.A.S. degree, the Liberal Arts Core Committee would need to address alternatives for Liberal Arts Core for these students.

R. Christ questioned what the requirements would be for the LAC and major.

Heistad responded the LAC requirements would depend on the technical expertise and required general education courses they already took at their community colleges. Heistad indicated courses in A.S. and A.A.S. do include some of UNI's LAC. As an example, she indicated the possibility of half LAC satisfied through A.A.S., and 1 year of LAC and 1 year of major completed at UNI, but these types of decisions would need to be decided with further review by student and program.

S. Riehl inquired whether these courses would be primarily offered online or face-to-face. She indicated it will play out differently based on how the degree was offered, noting that we would most likely be offering this to a different audience than our typical degree-seeking student.

Chatham-Carpenter commented that typically it is found the audience would be a non-traditional student who are "place bound," and so there is the probability that these courses would be offered online to accommodate these students. She indicated many of these have been working in their field of study for awhile and need a bachelor's degree to advance and be promoted in their field.

Johnson indicated the B.A. in Technology Management major is a prime example of a potential program which could be a B.A.S. degree, and online instruction aligns well.

S. Varzavand, Head of Department of Technology, indicated the cohort for the B.A. Technology Management major started in Fall 2014, and some of the courses are offered online through Continuing Education. Varzavand distributed a sample of the Department of Technology's *Bachelor of Applied Sciences Degree "Vision"* with a student entering UNI with an A.A.S. degree (in specific program area) and completing a B.A.S. degree in Construction Management or Electronic Engineering or Manufacturing Technology. In these samples, the student would need to complete 60-72 semesters hours at UNI, which encompassed a mixture of LAC (21-24 hours), Management core (21-24 hours), and technical core (21-24 hours).

P. Baker, Head of Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminology, inquired where the foreign language requirement fit in for this example.

Varzavand replied the community colleges do not have a foreign language requirement. Varzavand indicated the department does not look at entrance/exit requirements.

At this time it was confirmed the UNI foreign language requirement is a graduation requirement and not an admission requirement for existing undergraduate degrees (B.A., B.M., B.L.S., B.S.).

Todd Evans indicated Physical Therapy Assistant as an example of a person who may have been in a Physical Therapy Assistant position for 20 years and now wants to advance as a Physical Therapist but needs the bachelor's degree to go on to pursue the doctorate degree required as a Physical Therapist. Evans indicated UNI

could offer the core of courses they need to get the bachelor's degree even if we don't offer the doctorate degree.

Christ inquired whether a course offered in residence and online are equivalent.

Evans responded in the case of his program which is accredited, that this would depend on whether the student is sitting/not sitting for board exam. Evans indicated there are currently few online courses, with primarily in-house.

Christ indicated if students can't be accommodated with existing courses, we would be creating a new course for this purpose.

Evans responded some students can't afford but need the bachelor's degree. Evans stated this B.A.S. degree would be a university-wide opportunity.

Heistad questioned why the Bachelor of Liberal Studies (B.L.S.) degree could not satisfy this need.

Johnson responded the B.A.S. degree is more focused than the B.L.S. degree.

Laura Terlip, member of Faculty Senate, inquired whether there could be a common LAC or specified number of hours in LAC and then let the remainder "flush out" with major program within a reasonable number of hours.

Gayle Rhineberger-Dunn, Professor in Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminology, questioned if every department makes decisions on LAC for the B.A.S. degree, how will this be staffed and managed.

Baker stated the B.A.S. degree is fundamentally a different degree, and we need to know what these students and residents of the state need and what faculty feel is needed to meet those needs.

Cooley also commented that the title of the degree, Bachelor of *Applied* Sciences, differentiates this as a different type of degree with different needs.

Riehl gave the example of the existing Professional Science Master's degree (P.S.M.) which shares some core courses. Riehl asked whether this type of example/model could be used for departments to create some commonality.

K. Martin suggested the possibility of three or four programs as cohorts and faculty would collaboratively agree on need of courses for those cohorts and all students would take course at the same time.

Varzavand questioned what the difference would be in which choice was made in LAC.

Riehl responded that since it would be a UNI degree, LAC is appropriate and there would be a need for some LAC. Riehl suggested the possibility of the foreign language requirement not being required for a B.A.S. degree. She stated it won't be a "one size fits all", but not individualized by student either.

Rhineberger-Dunn commented that B.A.S. students would be different type of students and the major program requirements should be decided by department and the LAC decided by LAC.

John Fritch, member of task force, indicated it seemed the following questions need to be asked:

- What is a B.A.S. degree?
- Is the B.A.S. degree the same as B.A. or B.S. degree?
- What does the LAC look like for the B.A.S. degree? Are there choices, does it differ by program, is it by individual?
- Will A.A.S. or A.S. fulfill specific portions of LAC? If so, specify the areas within LAC.
- Look at the specific program and build articulation

- When above specifics outlined, can we sell this to people?

Heistad stated the A.A. articulation agreement lists all LAC satisfied with the exception of LAC Capstone category and in some instances the Non-Western Cultures category, but there is an incredible amount of diversity among A.S. and A.A.S. degrees.

Cooley commended Fritch on his comments and stated the B.A.S. is ahead of the curve, and a marketable and appealing degree. Cooley indicated the demographics in the state is less monolingual and questioned what threat there would be in keeping the foreign language requirement.

Chatham-Carpenter asked for suggestions on hours for LAC and major.

Riehl commented the more LAC that can be shared would be beneficial.

Varzavand stated if departments are teaching the majority of courses themselves and there is no collaboration with other departments it is difficult. Varzavand also stated flexibility should be allowed to "waive" the foreign language requirement.

Heistad indicated a B.A.S. degree in one major may still need a specific LAC component while another B.A.S. in another major may need a different LAC component. Heistad indicated it is difficult to do in abstract, but if reviewed at the specific program level it makes more sense.

Martin questioned how many potential B.A.S. majors there would be, and indicated each major could be analyzed for LAC in line with the community college and look for the commonality in the analysis.

Cooley added it would be beneficial to identify a small pool of community colleges and the potential programs at UNI. Terlip also indicated UNI should work with community colleges to create a good B.A.S. degree articulation.

Baker stated the UCC should decide/recommend what UNI requires to get the B.A.S. degree, and let the departments/faculty decide what student needs for B.A.S. outcomes. There could be an LAC requirement and departments would decide the remainder.

Chatham-Carpenter expressed the following:

- the foreign language requirement could be built in but not required as exit requirement
- leave requirements in the hands of the faculty
- need more research by faculty at "feeder" schools
- have minimum guidelines

Consensus of others present were:

- know the difference between B.A., B.S., and B.A.S. before department puts work into guidelines and framework
- what is needed in LAC if have A.S. or A.A.S. degree
- look at a B.A. degree and then look at LAC and major - whittle away from there - need to have flexibility built in

Discussion concluded and the following structure for a B.A.S. was recommended:

1. Must have A.S. or A.A.S. degree;
2. 120 minimum hours for graduation and not an extended program;
3. UNI program hours:
 - 21-30 hours LAC taken at UNI (LAC based on competencies, not specific courses)
 - 21-30 hours content
 - 0-18 hours electives (can be used to meet hours for LAC, foreign language, or additional content, etc.)
 - 60 hours total/cap

Riehl moved, Basom seconded to approve this recommendation. Motion carried.

Chair Chatham-Carpenter stated she would provide this approved recommended structure to Faculty Senate.

Chair Chatham-Carpenter stated the next UCC meeting will be **October 15 in from 3:00-4:00 p.m. in Seerley 119** at which time the revisions to the curriculum handbook would be reviewed.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Wallace
UCC Secretary

dmw
cc: UCC
Guests