

Directors of Undergraduate Studies  
March 23, 2021; 3:30pm – 5:00pm Meeting Minutes

Announcements from Undergraduate Education

Abigail Panter, Senior Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education

Nick Siedentop, Curriculum Director

Updates from Abigail Panter Regarding Fall 2021 Semester

- The current goal is for in-person instruction to go back to pre-pandemic levels. We assume most people will be vaccinated and will still wear masks in fall. There will be some level of testing, though that has not been determined. Provost Blouin is looking for best practices moving forward. Two groups for academic planning: 1) University-level group, including academic deans from several schools and 2) College-level group, which will start meeting soon. If DUS are interested in participating, follow up with Abigail Panter. The University's Roadmap Implementation Team is also continuing its work.
- Per Vice Chancellor for Human Resources and Equal Opportunity and Compliance, Becky Menghini, there is no remote workforce policy at this time. For faculty, the expectation is to go back to in-person instruction.
- Will there be a method for requiring students to either be tested or have vaccination prior to attending classes? UNC is still working this out. This is part of the charge of the Roadmap Implementation Team that the Provost runs. Other questions under consideration: the pass/fail policy – can students still declare by last day of classes? Can we bring back the dean's list? Posing a set of policies that represents a more residential experience over time. Will negative test or vaccination proof be required to return to campus (negative tests will still be a requirement most likely for the community standards), Are we still holding large classes? etc.

Updates from Nick Siedentop (see "OUC DUS Presentation\_March 2021" slides)

- **UNC Catalog:** Please be sure to submit all Catalog pages for review and approval, even if you don't have updates to make to those pages.
- **2.0 in major requirement replacing the hours of C policy:** Please see documentation for more information. The "Hours of C" policy has been on the books for over fifty years. This new policy will reduce inequities that are currently at play, especially for transfer students who are bringing in courses for the major core. This population has to have 75% of remaining core courses above a grade of C. Depending on how many hours the students bring in, it creates inequities across transfer and non-transfers. This also creates inequities across majors because some majors have more core requirements than others. The 2.0 policy is a way of remedying this, and it is consistent with all of our peer institutions. If approved by the Educational Policy Committee, the policy will go into effect for all students fall 2021 (includes incoming and continuing students). This policy only impacts the core requirements (doesn't include additional requirements), and the GPA for this requirement would automatically be calculated in the Tar Heel Tracker.
- **IDEAs in Action High Impact Research Category:** this category is being eliminated since it was confusing to submitters and reviewers because of potential overlaps with the Research and Discovery category. The Office of Undergraduate Curricula (OUC) is reaching out to departments that submitted courses for HI-Research with recommendations for updating to the Research and Discovery category.

Student Ambassador Program

Inger Brodey, Director – Office of Distinguished Scholarships (ODS)

Brodey thanked DUS and all faculty for recommending competitive scholarships to students. There are currently 18 scholarships that require UNC's endorsement (see "ODS DUS Presentation\_March 2021" for details and approximate deadlines or refer to the ODS [website](#)). ODS can provide support to students who have questions

about the applications, essays, and interviewing when allowed, but faculty can make a big difference by encouraging students to apply for scholarships. This provides that psychological boost of someone saying they are valuable enough and can succeed. Getting an email or phone call from a faculty is very encouraging for a student. The process itself is high impact for the student, even if they don't ultimately get the scholarship. Many will benefit just from the acknowledgement.

Refer to [www.strive.unc.edu](http://www.strive.unc.edu) for a searchable database of scholarships. ODS is working to develop ways to filter searches. Posters with prominent scholarships are also available for departments to hang in visible areas.

DUS and students can contact ODS with questions. Email [ods@unc.edu](mailto:ods@unc.edu). Students can book online appointments and can join ODS listserv via the link on the website: <http://honorscarolina.unc.edu/ods>.

### Communication Beyond Carolina – Mini-Workshop

Kevin Marinelli, Executive Director, Program for Public Discourse

Sarah Dempsey, Department of Communication (was not able to attend)

Marinelli provided DUS with strategies and assignments to achieve the five learning outcomes for the Communication Beyond Carolina (COMMBEYOND) requirement. The goal of the workshop was to provide DUS with a better understanding of the requirement so that they can then share these insights with their departments. The ultimate goal is to educate academic departments so we have strong course proposals ready for next October 15 2021 deadline. Marinelli referred DUS to a help guide he and Sarah Dempsey developed. This included sections with assignment examples and assessment rubrics. Please see document labeled "COMMBEYOND sample assignments\_March 2021" for details.

Anna Krome-Lukens from Public Policy discussed PLCY 698, a course that involves community projects. This course requires a portfolio of work and a final presentation (to the partner organization and any other parties they might invite). This course was recently approved for COMMBEYOND. The purpose of the course is to prepare students to be out in society and communicate well within their discipline. PLCY 330, Negotiation and Mediation: The Practice of Conflict Management (cross-listed with PWAD), taught by Shai Tamari, was also recently approved to fulfill COMMBEYOND. This course helps students to develop a communication skillset based on discipline expertise. Krome-Lukens can be a resource for faculty who are interested in having their courses meet the COMMBEYOND requirement through similar means.

### Discussion on Credit Hour Totals for Undergraduate Majors

Nick previewed the credit hour sheet to compare core and additional requirements in all majors, Tab 1 is College majors. Tab 2 is Professional majors. This sheet was put together to look at inequities brought out by the current hours of C policy; however, this is also a nice way to preview department credit hour requirements with similar programs. This spreadsheet is available on the DUS MS Teams site for reference (see "Majors\_total core credit hours"). Note: a revised version of the spreadsheet was posted to the Teams site on 4-5-2021; the revised version eliminated the extra columns that calculated transfer credit, which were originally included to illustrate inequities with the 'Hours of C' policy.

### Additional Resources

- [DUS Website](#)
- [DUS MS Teams](#)
- [Keep Teaching](#)
- [COVID-19 Community Standards](#)