

Undergraduate Council Summary Report – April 14, 2020

Submitted by Anthony Welch, Chair

Academic Policy (March 4): The committee presented seven proposals:

(1) to update the policy on transfer credit for students who have completed an associate's degree and a Tennessee Transfer Pathway (TTP) at a Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) community college to include additional categories of prior learning assessment;

(2) to clarify the undergraduate grade appeal procedure;

(3) to update the American history requirement in response to recent changes in the Tennessee Code;

(4) to clarify that the new grade replacement policy applies only to 100- to 400-level courses taken for undergraduate credit;

(5) to update catalog text related to the policy on N-prefix grades for ABC/N courses that was approved earlier this semester;

(6) to authorize the Coordinator of Curriculum/Catalog to make minor updates to catalog text to reflect policies approved by the Academic Policy Committee, if errors or omissions are found prior to the committee's next scheduled meeting in Fall 2020;

(7) to allow the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and the Coordinator of Curriculum/Catalog to make editorial changes over the summer, if necessary, to comply with a Department of Education ruling regarding the term "regionally accredited."

The Undergraduate Council approved all the proposals.

Advising (February 18): The committee shared standing reports from the UTK advising community and other campus units. These items were informational only and did not require action from the Undergraduate Council.

Appeals: No report.

Curriculum (March 31): The committee presented low- and mid-impact catalog corrections from six colleges and several other units for the 2020-2021 catalog. In addition, the committee affirmed the creation of the new S/CR/NC grade mode for Spring 2020 undergraduate courses. This grade mode will be shown on the website of the Office of the University Registrar and on an individual student's transcript, but will not show in the undergraduate catalog. The Undergraduate Council approved all the proposals.

General Education (March 11 and April 8): The committee presented the minutes of two meetings held in March and April. On March 11, 56 course proposals were approved for the Vol Core curriculum, effective Fall 2021, in the following categories: WC, AOC, QR, AH, AAH, SS, and EI. On April 8, 84 course

proposals were approved for Vol Core in the following categories: WC, AOC, AH, AAH, NS, SS, and GCI. The committee will hold an extra meeting on May 13 to review additional Vol Core proposals. The Undergraduate Council approved all the proposals above.

Other: Due to closures and social distancing measures caused by COVID-19, many business partners who have previously hosted paid internships for our students are unable to offer paid positions this summer. To accommodate the need to transcript unpaid off-campus internships during Mini-term and Summer 2020 without creating a financial burden for students (who are required to pay per-credit-hour tuition rates for these transcribed courses), both the Curriculum Committee and the Undergraduate Council considered a proposal to create zero-credit sections, in Mini-Term and Summer 2020 only, for certain off-campus study courses that normally carry 1-15 credit hours. The proposal was approved.

Should it be necessary to extend any of the emergency measures already approved for Spring 2020 into one or more additional terms, the Council approved a proposal to schedule a meeting between late May and early June, which would include the full Undergraduate Council and its Committees, to consider those measures.