



Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee Minutes

Thursday, September 5, 2024

9:00 am – 10:30 am

VH 219

Members in Attendance: L. Dorsey, E. Baker, G. Barker, L. Billadeau, T. Breitbach, M. Cope, E. Crowell, J. Cox, P. Dotson, J. Haugen, D. Manos, L. McLaughlin, G. Merys, N. Mispagel, V. Murugan, B. Perlman, S. Sell, L. Sweetman, A. Zampaulo,

Absent/Excused: J. Leonard, Megan Touns, S. Tyuse

Guests: Steve Sanchez, Hamish Binns

Call to Order: Dr. Dorsey called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

- I. **Approval of Meeting Minutes – May 2, 2024.**
 - a. Motion to approve minutes was put forth by Ben Perlman and seconded by Tony Breitbach. Minutes were approved.
- II. **HLC Overview – Steve Sanchez, PhD**

Dr. Sanchez provided an update on the university and program accreditation requirements. Accreditation is broadly defined as quality improvement and compliance with external requirements. To participate as a university in various bodies and the federal government we must be accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). Some programs regularly engage in some form of program accreditation and self-study requirements with their professional organizations. A team of peer reviewers read and analyze the self-study and do a one-to-two-day on-site review. The purpose is to validate the accuracy of what you do and share the report with the Administration with recommendations.

Our regional accreditation (HLC) for SLU has been continuous since 1916. HLC accredits 1,200 institutions, holding them to the same standards and same basic criteria. The HLC serves as a subcontractor to the US department of Ed and reports

on federal compliance. There is a 10-year cycle with a mid-cycle review. The first progress report will address academic program review and an assessment of our new Core curriculum.

Criteria for the HLC: new criteria will be implemented on 9/1/2025. It is being revised from 2021 to be more streamlined.

- Mission: can you demonstrate that you are living the mission. Is it aligned with your goals, is it serving the public good and providing opportunities for civil engagement.
- Integrity: demonstrate ethical and responsible conduct
- Transparency: look for discrepancies and correct them. Review catalog, website and other documents.
- Board governance and Academic freedom: provide the evidence that we stand by those.
- Knowledge acquisition.
- Teaching and learning for success.
- Level goals: what is appropriate for each level; by reviewing the outcomes
- Resources: do we provide support for our services and students.
- Assessment: does it improve on the assessment of learning.
- Program review: provide evidence that improvements have been made based on the review – student success rates and outcomes, retention rates and graduation rates.
- Effective administrative structures: Financial resources, a balance of short- and long-term initiatives and a systematic approach to quality improvement.

III. Academic Program (s):

Majors – none

Minors – none

Micro-credentials

- Portuguese – Intermediate (CIM 692) (Madrid) – No questions from the committee.
- Portuguese – Beginning (CIM 693) (Madrid) – No questions from the committee.
- Arabic – Beginning (CIM 694) (Madrid) – No questions from the committee.

Will move forward to UAAC Subcommittee next week for approval.

IV. Old Business: Academic Program Proposal Approvals – Dr. Dorsey

- Health Management Minor (CIM 706) received approval from CADD and Provost in May 2024.

- Third year review function of UAAC – new programs will undergo a review mid-cycle (full cycle is 6 to 7 years). Is the program achieving its goals and are the outcomes measurable to what was originally planned – e.g. resources, labs, space, etc. Dr. Trees is putting together a list of programs that will start this year. A template with a process will be provided to the group – this review applies to majors and minors – not micro-credentials.

V. Discussion Items

- RISE (newly integrated SOAR/BFC Program) Priority Registration.
- Dr. Dorsey provided the committee with a summary of the discussion from the UAAC May meeting regarding this topic. The new program RISE came together as a recommendation of Kennedy & Co joining SOAR and BFC together to form one new program to more intentionally and effectively serve students who meet the eligibility criteria. RISE is requesting priority registration due to the complex issues and challenges students may face as high-risk demographic students.
- The RISE program is requesting priority registration for the BFC students as well. The total number of students using this resource would be approximately 600 and 300 are already receiving the benefit.
- The committee voiced many concerns about the number of students receiving priority registration and questioned why we need priority registration and are we being equitable to all students. This topic was to be explored over the summer by the Office of the Registrar.
- Over the summer research had been conducted on other approaches taken by similar universities reviewing their priority registration requirements and process. Jay suggests that we vote on an interim opportunity for priority registration for all RISE students and work to establish a new type of registration to be in place for October 2025.
- A call for a motion to approve interim priority registration for all RISE students was put forth by Dr. Dorsey – Tony Breitbach and Andre Zampaulo endorsed the motion as well the committee at large with the assumption that the approval comes with time boundaries. The interim priority registration will apply to Fall 2024 and Spring 2025. Ben Perlman will inform Lindsay Gonterman of the committee’s decision.

VI. Policy Review: Dr. Dorsey

This year the committee will spend time on policy review:

- University Academic Probation and Dismissal - Aligning these in the Office of the Provost with a structure to support these policies.
- Repeating Course Policy- We will start our fall discussions around tightening up the language, so we are clear in communicating that a course a student

takes at another institution that articulates at SLU (transfer credit) the grade is not figured into the GPA and there is no grade replacement.

- Holds Policy Revision – There is new work in establishing financial holds with new language being provided; academic holds are still being finalized; and judicial holds – no change.
- LOA Policy revision: We will review this policy and possibly revise it based on timeline of impact and what best supports the students.
- Incomplete Course Policy revision – Timeline for completion will be discussed – possibly shorten to a 30-day policy.
- Prerequisite Coursework Policy – UAAC endorsed the concept that the registrar will monitor the nuances and timing of emails. The language needs greater specificity.

VII. Announcements:

- Next UAAC Meeting October 3, 2024