

**Members present:** Philip Lewin, AL; Ethlyn Williams, BA; Yash Bhagwanji, ED; Hongbo Su, EG; Miguel Vázquez (for Nicholas Baima), HC; Clarene Brown-King and Katherine Chadwell, NU; Korey Sorge, SC; Precious Skinner-Osei, SJ; Lawrence Mello, Library; Dan Meeroff, Interim Dean, Undergraduate Studies; Donna Chamely-Wiik, Office of Undergraduate Research; Jeff Galin, University Center for Excellence in Writing; Mary Ann Gosser, University Honors Council (UHC); Brian Hodge, Maria Jennings, Elissa Rudolph, Registrar’s Office.

**Guests:** Emily Fenichel, Visual Arts & Art History; Thomas Stollar, Visual Arts & Art History; Debra Szabo, Provost’s Office.

The meeting, in-person and via Webex, was called to order at 10:06 a.m. by UUPC Chair Ethlyn Williams. Before the meeting got underway, Dr. Donna Chamely-Wiik shared that former chair, Dr. Jerry Haky, was doing well. She will continue to share any news about him.

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Williams asked for any changes to the March 28, 2022, minutes. There being none, the previous meeting’s minutes were approved.

Chair Williams commented that she would like to offer a mini-orientation at the first meeting of the fall for any new committee members that will also serve as a refresher for returning members.

**II. OLD BUSINESS**

The new undergraduate degree program in Global Studies and its four new courses were postponed at the March UUPC meeting due to missing support letters. During the discussion of the program at this meeting, a committee member asked why WST 4337 (Sex, Violence and Hollywood) is on the Elective list for this Global Studies program. AL Rep Philip Lewin said he would ask the program’s originator for the rationale for the referenced course. Then he suggested the whole package be withdrawn because some of the support letters are still missing. **The UUPC agreed to withdraw the proposal for the new bachelor’s degree program and four new courses.**

<a href="#">New Program State Forms</a>	BA in Global Studies		New	Withdrawn
<a href="#">IDS 3313</a>	Global Studies 1		New	Withdrawn
<a href="#">IDS 4315</a>	Global Studies 2	3	New	Withdrawn
<a href="#">IDS 4332</a>	Cultural Study of Globality	3	New	Withdrawn
<a href="#">IDS 4915</a>	Directed Independent Research	3	New	Withdrawn

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. University-Wide**

***Multilingual Student Support Program***

Jeff Galin, Director of the University Center for Excellence in Writing, presented an informational item to the committee, describing the Multilingual Student Support Program that is being proposed. He explained that since FAU is a Latino serving institution and boasts regularly that it has the most diverse student population of any of the SUS schools, it stands to reason that FAU should offer programs to better support these diverse students in ways that we have not yet done so. Dr. Galin added he has been working with the deans to gain their support for this project. He fielded various questions about the program and provided the following responses. It is a pilot program beginning in Summer 2022 and is based on a similar program at Cornell University that has proven to be very popular. Students would self-select by applying to the program once it is up and running. A series of symposium courses and workshops would be the

vehicles for teaching multilingual students various aspects of writing, preparing effective presentations, research paper writing, and improving pronunciation and oral communication. **UUPC approval is not necessary for this new program, but the Committee encourages updates as the program takes shape.**

***Bachelor of General Studies***

Registrar Brian Hodge discussed a proposal to add new and clarifying language to the policy on minors and certificates for BGS students. Currently only one minor is allowed and there is no mention of certificates. With these changes, the BGS program would now permit students to pursue several minors and to pursue certificates as long as the minors and/or certificates do not extend time to graduation or other existing college restrictions. Course overlap between the BGS discipline and minors is still not allowed, but it is allowed with the certificates. This policy change provides BGS students with a more expansive menu of options. **The UUPC approved the policy change for the BGS.**

***Career Readiness Digital Badge***

Undergraduate Studies Interim Dean Dan Meeroff explained that in 2021, the state amended section (s.) 10007.25, Florida Statutes to require Florida public colleges and universities to award a “digital badge” upon completion of coursework intended to demonstrate career readiness. Digital badges will be awarded in six Career Readiness Skills areas: Communication Skills, Applied Academic Skills, Critical Thinking Skills, Information Use, Technology Use, and Personal Qualities. Dean Meeroff added that the state has not yet provided language for this new item, but when it becomes available, there will be a page added to the Undergraduate Studies website outlining the program.

The first badge will be awarded in Communication earned through ENC 1101 or another 1101-type course. The badges are not a graduation requirement. Registrar Hodge shared that the badge will be awarded automatically at the end of the semester in which the student meets the requirements, but the exact mechanism has not been decided as yet. Students who have earned equivalency through credit-by-examination will also have the badge awarded either at the end of their first semester of enrollment if the exam was taken prior to matriculation or at the end of the semester in which the exam was completed and reported to FAU. NU Rep Kitty Chadwell asked whether this badge or others similar to it would be discriminatory – would those who do not have badges appear less worthy. Dr. Hodge offered that any perceived value would depend on employers, and it is not clear how much importance employers will place on the badges because they are based on one course. **The UUPC asked for updates as this initiative becomes a reality.**

***American Sign Language Competency***

Dean Meeroff said that American Sign Language (ASL) is considered a foreign language in the State of Florida, but FAU has no easy way to test a student’s proficiency in ASL, other than having the student take the FAU’s ASL course. Dr. Marcella Munson, Department of Languages, Linguistics and Comparative Literature, has suggested a solution in which the University can register to become a remote proctoring site for ASL through the University of Gallaudet. This way students do not have to wait for the ASL course to be offered at FAU. **The UUPC agreed with the solution.**

<u>Informational Item</u>	Multilingual Student Support Program		New	
<u>Program Change</u>	Bachelor of General Studies		Change	
<u>Informational Item</u>	Career Readiness Digital Badge		New	
<u>Informational Item</u>	American Sign Language Proficiency		New	

## 2. Arts and Letters

AL Rep Lewin discussed the first new course (ASN 3006), which has the support of the Department of History. Support from the Honors College was also received because it is already an existing course in that college. Dr. Miguel Vazquez, in attendance for HC Rep Nicholas Baima, confirmed that the Honors College agrees with creation of the new course for Arts and Letters. AL Rep Lewin then introduced Guest Emily Fenichel to discuss the second new course (ARH 4554) and the program change in Visual Arts and Art History. As to the course, Dr. Fenichel said that it is very popular with students, having already been offered several times as a Special Topics course. **Both new courses were then approved by the UUPC.**

Dr. Fenichel stated that the program change in the BA in Art with concentration in Studio Arts involves adding electives and reorganizing existing electives, part of the larger changes for this program that took place earlier this year. Thomas Stollar, former AL Rep, offered to attend the next UFS Steering meeting in case questions arise about these changes. **The UUPC approved the program change.**

<a href="#">ASN 3006</a> <a href="#">History support</a>	Introduction to Asian Studies	3	New	
<a href="#">ARH 4554</a>	The Art of Japan	3	New	
<a href="#">Program Change</a>	BA in Art: Studio Arts Concentration		Revise content areas and add electives	

## 3. Engineering and Computer Science

EG Rep Hongbo Su presented items from his college. The program change involves revising content areas for the BACS in Computer Science, whereby core credits are reduced, and elective credits are increased. The total credits required for the program (120) do not change. Rep Su explained this change gives students more flexibility in course selection. **The UUPC approved the program change.**

The Committee then reviewed a new course (EML 4442), which had been previously offered as Special Topics, and a course change involving a prerequisite adjustment (CDA 4630). **These two items were then approved by the UUPC.**

<a href="#">Program Change</a>	BACS in Computer Science		Reduce core credits and increase elective credits	
<a href="#">EML 4442</a>	Introduction to Wind and Ocean Energy Turbines	3	New	
<a href="#">CDA 4630</a>	Introduction to Embedded System Design	3	Change prereqs.	

## 4. Honors College

Miguel Vázquez, serving as HC Rep for this meeting, brought forward a revision to the College's Biology Concentration, which was updated by adding current courses to the list of electives. University Honors Council Director Mary Ann Gosser confirmed that the revision was approved by the Council. **The UUPC approved the program change.**

<a href="#">Program Change</a> <a href="#">Honors approval</a>	Biology Concentration		Updates to the elective list, removing old courses and adding new ones	
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5. Business, Education, Library, Nursing, Science and Social Work and Criminal Justice had no reports.

### III. FINAL DISCUSSION/NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

#### ***Formation of Subcommittees***

Chair Williams opened a discussion on the guidelines of the UUPC, specifically on how subcommittees are formed. In response to Dean Meeroff's request to form a Pre-Law Subcommittee, it was found the UUPC does include policies for forming a subcommittee in its guidelines. Chair Williams noted that the UUPC does not have its own bylaws; it has guidelines. She encouraged Committee members to look at the current guidelines, <https://www.fau.edu/uupc/documents/uupcpolicies-final.pdf>.

Dr. Gosser provided background on the formation of one of the UUPC's subcommittees, the University Honors Council. She shared that a University task force was formed to handle the formation of the Honors College in the late 1990s. The task force was to meet on an as-needed basis, later evolving into the University Honors Council (UHC) when the University instituted Honors in the Major programs. Dr. Donna Chamely-Wiik said that the Undergraduate Research Curriculum Committee (URCC), also a subcommittee of the UUPC, came together as undergraduate research evolved to be a top priority of FAU. It was formed at the University level out of the Undergraduate Research Initiative.

Chair Williams found language on formation of subcommittees in the University Faculty Senate Bylaws and suggested the UUPC can follow that language to establish a new subcommittee with similar language to be added to the UUPC's Guidelines.

<https://www.fau.edu/ufsgov/documents/ufs-bylaws-21.pdf> (page 10, Section B)

#### Section B. Special Committees

The UFS or its President may establish Special Committees for any purpose it deems appropriate. Such Committees will be dissolved following the last regular meeting each academic year unless established with fixed terms."

Dean Meeroff provided his explanation for forming a new subcommittee considering pre-law proposals, which had been discussed in previous UUPC meetings. There is a pre-law presence at other state universities and a growing interest from students. He estimated that around 1,000 students in the University are looking for courses in pre-law. Chair Williams questioned why the Pre-Law Subcommittee needed to be under UUPC. Wouldn't it work better as a committee under Undergraduate Studies instead? Dean Meeroff replied that because pre-law involves all colleges, having the subcommittee fall under the broader umbrella of UUPC would provide for better communication with this effort.

He added that when a Pre-Law coordinator is identified, it would make sense for that person to be invited to UUPC meetings and included in discussions to form the subcommittee using the UFS guidelines noted above. Going forward, Dean Meeroff suggested that once the Pre-Law Subcommittee is formed, any course or program related to that discipline should have a letter of support from the Subcommittee added to the proposal, as is currently the case with approvals from the other subcommittees.

#### ***Update on Honors in the Major***

Dr. Gosser provided her annual update regarding students who have graduated from honors in the major programs on the Boca Raton campus. She reported that during the period from summer/fall 2020 to end of spring 2021, 82 students graduated with honors in the major. From summer/fall 2021 through spring 2022 that total was 65 students.

Dr. Gosser also shared that the University Honors Council has been tasked with developing a four-year honors degree program on the Boca Raton campus targeted for fall 2024.

### ***Combined Program Review***

Registrar Hodge and Registrar's Office Rep Maria Jennings shared an issue that has been occurring with the review of new combined programs or combined program changes. Departments occasionally submit the combined program paperwork to the UUPC and the University Graduate Programs Committee (UGPC) simultaneously. If either committee requests a change in the proposal, the other committee is not aware and is not voting on the "final" proposal. Additionally, because the UGPC meeting is usually a few days before the UUPC meeting, UGPC votes for the proposal before the UUPC has seen the proposal. The combined program paperwork includes the review order should be UUPC first, followed by UGPC. Once approved and signed by the UUPC Chair and Undergraduate Studies Dean, the paperwork goes to the UGPC/University Graduate Council for review/approval. Then the appropriate graduate authorities sign it. After which, the combined program goes to Steering, then Senate.

Chair Williams and the Committee noted the concern. Chair Williams offered to reach out to the UGPC Chair to discuss the order of approvals for combined programs and ask that they do not consider combined program proposals unless they have the UUPC approvals noted.

### ***Next Meeting/Adjournment***

Chair Williams presented the proposed meeting dates for the 2022-2023 Academic Year: Mondays, from 10 am to noon, Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 7, Dec. 5, Jan. 30, Feb. 27, March 27, April 24, which Committee members agreed with. It was also determined that the majority of meetings will still take place virtually via Webex (or via Zoom – to be determined), except for Sept. 12, Dec. 5 and April 24, which would be in person for representatives and virtually for guests.

Steering meeting dates: <https://www.fau.edu/ufsgov/steering-committee/>

University Faculty Senate meeting dates: <https://www.fau.edu/ufsgov/calendar/>

Chair Williams declared the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.