

**Minutes**  
**Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee**  
**Thursday, April 6, 2023**

**Members in Attendance:** L. Dorsey, G. Barker, M. Cope, P. Dotson, J. Haugen, J. Helton, S. McGahan, B. Perlman, D. Pike, Fr. Rozier, J. Rust, S. Sell, S. Steadman, M. Toups, S. Tyuse, G. Merys, J. Nichols, T. De Shon, J.M. Cox, E. Gockel-Blessing, L. Sweetman.

**Absent/Excused:** E. Crowell, L. McLaughlin, N. Mispagel, K. Waldron

**Call to Order:** Dr. Dorsey called the meeting to order at 9:03 am.

**Approval of Minutes from the March 2, 2023, UAAC Meeting:**

Motion made by Sabrina Tyuse to approve the March 2nd, 2023, meeting minutes with no revisions and seconded by Scott Sell, D. Pike abstained and all other members approved motion.

**Academic Programs:**

Dr. Gary Barker reported that the CAS Faculty Council vote on the Catholic studies minor offered in Madrid will be at the FC meeting being held next week. The Creative Writing Minor proposal to Faculty Council has been delayed.

Debbie Pike reported that the Entrepreneurial minor to be offered in Madrid will be distributed to the committee as informational only.

**New Discussion – Leah Sweetman, PhD – The Carnegie Community Engagement Classification:**

The Center for Social Action is putting together SLU's Carnegie Community engagement Re-Classification application. We are in the process of gathering examples of community engaged scholarships, practices, community impact assessment, partnerships, and awards. A google form with selected questions that the community engaged faculty or staff in the schools and colleges can complete, if they so choose has been created and I will be available for short conversations about community engaged work across our campus.

**Old Business – Micro-Credential policy:**

Micro-credential policy – CADD approved the university Micro-credential Policy at the March meeting with an effective date of April 1, 2023. However, there was a query regarding current students and if/when they can declare micro-credentials.

Dr. Lisa Dorsey stated that Dr. April Trees reviewed the micro-credentials programs based on what is currently happening and to codify students. There has not been anything come to my attention and as a reminder the UAAC sub-committee will meet next week and I am hopeful that there will be some micro-credentials proposals brought forward. If a proposal for micro-credentials is not brought forward by May 11<sup>th</sup> (next UAAC meeting), it will then be pushed to the September 2023 UAAC committee for approval. *Because of the iterative process of program proposals, it is strongly recommended that micro-credential proposals are submitted for the May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.*

### Committee Feedback:

- *Would it be the student's responsibility to declare a micro-credential or would it be the advisor's responsibility?*
- *What are the steps the students should take to declare a micro-credential?*
- *A comment was made in favor of currently enrolled students declaring a micro-credential to include prior coursework in the spirit of the major and minor being allowed to include coursework prior to the declaration of major and minor. It should only be for students who declare the micro-credential and not declared by accident.*
- *There are students who on their transcript would not want certain things to show up. Unless the student is intending for it to be on their transcript, it could be harmful in the future for a student.*

Jay Haugen informed the committee that the students get a "what if," that falls into their academic plan, but there would be nothing to show them this. It is up to the students to identify whichever academic credential they have achieved, and therefore would like to declare it.

Dr. Lisa Dorsey commented that the consensus of the committee is that there is no harm in achieving a micro-credential while continuing coursework. It is open-ended on how the student finds out how they qualify, other than meeting with their academic professional on campus.

A committee member inquired as to whether Graduate students declare undergraduate micro-credentials? Example: There is no Graduate program in African American Studies.

Dr. Lisa Dorsey will inquire with Dr. April Trees regarding Graduate students who would like to declare undergraduate micro-credentials and inform the committee of her findings. No modifications of the policy are needed, however, clarification on the language process is the main conversation for this policy.

### **Catalog of Record**

We offered some minor revisions to the policy at our last meeting. We moved this policy to the GAAC committee and agreed with the language revisions. An additional minor revision was incorporated from the UAAC suggestions and were shared and reviewed by the GAAC committee.

The following revisions were suggested by the UAAC committee:

- If students defer their admission, their "catalog of record" is adjusted to the Academic Catalog of the year to which their admission is deferred.

Motion made by Joseph Nichols to approve the Catalog of Record policy with the suggested revision and seconded by Sabrina Tyuse, all approved motion.

The GAAC committee passed the revised Catalog of Record without any other revisions.

### **Dual Degree**

The dual degree policy was moved forward to CADD and no significant issues were noted within the policy. There was a request to provide an example for clarity under the following:

- *Students cannot concurrently earn two Bachelors of Arts degrees or two Bachelors of Science degrees.*

Suggested Language:

*Example:* A student earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology and a Bachelor of Arts degree in History would earn a Bachelor of Arts degree with two majors, one in Biology and one in History, and it would be recorded as a double major.

*Example:* Students cannot earn an additional degree with the same major, e.g., students earning a Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science cannot also pursue a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science.

Motion made by Elizabeth Gockel-Blessing to approve the Dual Degree policy with the suggested language revisions and seconded by Joseph Nichols, all approved motion.

**Challenge Exams:**

Dr. Lisa Dorsey shared that there has been a tremendous amount of feedback regarding embracing challenge exam moving forward. There was feedback provided to Vice President of ERM highlighting that the academic units have expressed a considerable amount of concern regarding the timing of challenge exams implementation for this incoming freshman, as well workload and the efforts associated with the resource needs and the timeline of this process. There are also other concerns around accreditation and assessment (such as pre-med, etc.). Some units have specific accreditation requirements, and it is possible that challenge exams will not fulfill the department's accreditation requirements.

The academic units in Spanish, Math, and Chemistry are not available to participate in a pilot for Fall 2023 but would be interested in pursuing challenge exam implementation for Fall 2024. How many credits do we allow from prior credit? We also need to think about pre-med students who are not going to get credit for Chemistry from a medical school application perspective.

The ECON unit has an interest in participating in a pilot for Fall 2023. Additional questions regarding who will grade the challenge exams, how we are tracking student outcomes and how will it be resourced need to be addressed.

There is still work to be done and revisions to be made regarding the challenge exam policy. Below are some further discussions from the committee:

- Jean Marie Cox addressed the committee on challenge exams and the involvement of ERM in the process.
- Fr. Michael Rozier commented that he is happy to hear that there is a plan to capture on-going evaluations for student success. However, he would like to formally see a plan (before the policy is put in place) to see what the most compelling reason is for doing this. Is it to capture students for enrollment and is this a justification? Is there a plan on how we are going to measure effectiveness of capturing new students or are we going to take the students here and give them challenge exams exerting a tremendous amount of effort without an increase in enrollment? It is incumbent that we ask for a plan before we ask academic units to go through this effort.
- Dr. Gary Barker stated if ECON is the only unit interested in participating in Fall 2023, he is okay with a pilot absent from the policy, but he feels strongly it should have an expiration date and

not be a perpetual pilot. This policy should be in place prior to curriculum credit being entered on transcripts. Faculty should be in control of what does get credit. The UAAC committee should decide what gets credit. I appreciate the Deans wanting to move forward, but this is different from authorizing credit for the Challenge exams.

**Meeting Adjournment:**

Dr. Dorsey adjourned the meeting at 10:33 am.

Next UAAC Meeting: May 4th, 2023