

DEDMAN COLLEGE  
UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL  
Minutes from April 6, 2001

The Undergraduate Council met on Friday, April 6, 2001, at 2:00 p.m. in 121 Dallas Hall. Present: Dean Kathy Hayes, and Dean O.T. Hargrave (*ex officio*), and Professors Christine Buchanan, Rajat Deb, and David Wilson, and student representatives Steven Urban and Read Pierce. Professors Carolyn Sargent, Gordon Birrell, and Jutta Van Selm were guests.

The minutes for the March 2, 2001 meeting were approved.

**New Course Proposal: WS 4303: *Women's Studies Internship***

Professor Carolyn Sargent attended the meeting to answer questions regarding the Women's Studies course proposal, WS 4303: *Women's Studies Internship*. Professor Sargent replied to a question on the prerequisite, "WS 2322 or substitute, with WS Director approval". The Women's Studies introductory course, WS 2322, is difficult to get into because it is so popular so several courses are accepted substitutes that have a women's studies component. The Council voted to **approve** the proposal.

**New Course Proposal: HIST 3311: *19<sup>th</sup> Century American West***

The Council **approved** this course.

**Tabled Course Proposal: PLSC 4392: *Model UN***

There was lengthy discussion concerning this course, which is currently being offered as a Special Topics course. Despite a lengthy email from Professor Wegren and several letters of support from current students in the Model UN class, the Council remained concerned about the course proposal. One concern is that students are required to travel to New York to participate in Model UN in order to pass the course. In addition, currently much of the funding for the course comes from the Tower Center funds which may not be available when a new director takes over. However, the biggest concern the Council had was the academic content. It is the Council's opinion that the curriculum is not geared to the 4000 level. Dean Hayes provided textbooks for the Council to look at and information from peer institutions on their Model UN programs. She was unable to find for-credit courses on Model UN in any other comparable institutions. The Council voted to **not approve** the course and recommended that the course not be offered in the future as a Special Topics course.

**Proposal to Change German Degree Plan**

Professors Gordon Birrell and Jutta Van Selm attended the meeting to answer questions on the proposed changes in German Degree Plans. The changes include title changes, consolidating two mid-level courses into one, and a greater flexibility in selection of advanced courses for degrees. Also, the prerequisites would change since the mid-level course that was eliminated was required. The Council **approved** the changes with one request of a title adjustment.

**Proposal to reorganize the Russian Program**

Professor Birrell explained to the Council the state of the Russian Program. There has been a steady decline in Russian Program majors and minors and the only tenured professor in Russian is leaving the College. The department recommended reducing the program to a non-degree program, the Russian Area Studies minor. Professor Daniel Orlovsky will direct the program and Adjunct Nadya Clayton will teach the first two years of language. The Council **approved** the proposal.

**Announcements:**

The Political Science department reorganized course credits for the Washington Seminar program. Instead of the Seminar being 8 credit hours and the Internship being 4 hours, it was changed to the Seminar, 6 hours, and the Internship, 6 hours. This more accurately reflects the substance of the program.

Professor Birrell responded to Dean Hayes' query about class credit given for native speakers. This lengthy response will be emailed to Council members.

Members whose terms on the Council are terminating this academic year were thanked for their time and effort.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas R. Arp