

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
The Undergraduate Educational Policy and Curriculum Committee

**Minutes**  
240 SH  
April 11, 2024

*Attending:* Cornelia Lang (chair), Jill Beckman, Asha Bhandary, Jean-François Charles, Anita Jung, Liz Lundberg (staff), Emilie Maurel-Destruel, Amira Qidwai, Cinda Coggins Mosher, Christine Shea, Amy Strathman

*Absent:* Rodica Curtu

1. Professor Coggins Mosher shared some information about a two-day conference she attended about K-12 and higher education. There was some discussion about first-semester students and what we can incorporate into their commonly taken courses to help them with the transition to college. The transition topics that were highlighted as possibly needing more direct instruction included etiquette and expectations around classroom behavior in college, especially post-COVID, when many students have become used to online coursework and multitasking. In addition to shared courses, On Iowa!, Success at Iowa, the CLAS syllabus template, and ICON were also mentioned as possible venues for communicating information to most or all incoming CLAS students. There will be more conferences like this one in the future, and Associate Dean Lang encouraged faculty members to attend and participate.
2. Liz Lundberg presented information about the CLAS rules governing the number of semester hours students must/are allowed to take from certain departments. She explained the exceptions to the general policy, how students with more than one program of study meet the requirement, and some complications that exist currently or could arise in the future, with curricular or structural changes.

The committee discussed the semester hours rule, focusing on the philosophy behind them, what is worth preserving, and where there might be room for improvement. The committee was in agreement that the purpose behind the rule—that students earning a BA or BS from CLAS should be receiving a broad and varied liberal arts education and should not be narrowly focusing only on their major area—is still a shared value and worth preserving with policy guardrails. There was some discussion about how the rule as stated will always have exceptions, and about how different programs of study within CLAS will always have different structural and curricular needs. Simplifying the policies where possible would be helpful, but not at the expense of recognizing each program's particular needs. Some committee members suggested comparing our policies to those of peer institutions; Associate Dean Lang agreed that we will do so. Some committee members thought that revisiting these policies, while complicated, points to exciting changes in CLAS and could present opportunities to recognize the ways that academic disciplines are increasingly interdisciplinary.

Respectfully submitted,

Emilie Maurel-Destruel  
Associate Professor, French & Italian, Linguistics  
Secretary, UEPCC