

UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes of March 22, 2001

Members present: Faye Chadwell, Hilary Gerdes, Craig Hickman, Dick Koch, John Nicols, Stephen Ponder, Kathy Roberts, Karen Sprague

Members absent: Herb Chereck, Mark Daniel, Paul Engelking, Serene Khader, Kate Kranzush, Wayne Gottshall, Anne Leavitt, Wendy Mitchell, K. J. Park, Scott Pratt, Marian Smith, Glenda Utsey, Bob Zimmerman

Meeting began at 8:38 a.m.

Discussion of the Multimedia Minor Proposal

Craig Hickman offered an overview of the multimedia minor proposal.

The minor is interdisciplinary - art, music, journalism, and computer science - and is a 27-credit hour program, consisting of a series of three courses (Multimedia Tools I, Multimedia Tools II, and a survey course). These courses that are also required for the major, comprise the heart of the minor, and are open to all other students as well. The curriculum for the courses was developed in cooperation with the School of Journalism, School of Music, Architecture and Allied Arts, and computer science - and a committee is in place that will oversee the courses.

John remarks that he recalls that the minor is heavy on the lower division load.

Craig acknowledges this to be true and offers the example that the level of coursework in computer science doesn't warrant upper division credit.

Hilary inquires as to how many students enrollment will accommodate.

Craig refers to page seven of the proposal, which stipulates enrollment limits. (I can copy the text from the proposal here, approx. 2" of info. detailing enrollment estimations and limitations broken down course by course.)

Hilary inquires as to whether or not the maximum enrollment numbers will be increased to meet high demand.

Craig indicates that it would.

Stephen Ponder states that the proposal is the most integrated program he's seen on campus. His colleagues in the journalism and communication department have been trying to integrate the "thinking part" and the "doing part" for some time. They are very excited about the program and perceive the potential advantages to be great.

Karen indicates that Craig has addressed her initial concerns in reading the proposal. She makes the recommendation that Craig may want to collaborate with, for example, the sciences in representing abstract ideas and illustrating difficult concepts utilizing this approach.

Craig agrees with Karen's suggestion but points out that this type of function would be a better fit with the major. Craig offers the vision that this could be expanded beyond the current departments involved.

John indicates that budget is a concern. If total student enrollment at the university doesn't increase, we're just shifting (revenue? enrollment?) from one area to another.

Craig explains that they have been unable to gauge what will happen because currently no students have been admitted. Of the 100 current applicants to the program, a number of these are new to the university.

Craig does not anticipate there being much advising associated with this program. The oversight committee members have accepted responsibility for some advising.

Hilary inquires about residency and is informed that all courses must be taken in residence.

Faye indicates that adjustments have been made in the library in order to accommodate this program.

Dick states that it is rare to see a minor that has been so well planned.

Hilary inquires as to whether this will be effective next fall.

Craig affirms that it will be effective next fall.

The proposal is unanimously approved.

Meeting Arrangements for Next Term

John confirmed knowledge among members that future meetings, beginning April 5, will be held at the same time in Johnson Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 a.m.