

BSLAS COORDINATING COMMITTEE
October 28, 2019
Meeting Notes

Morrison Hall 304
 2:00 p.m.

Attending

Randy Prus, Chair
 John Mischo
 Charles Matthews
 Lei Qian
 Tristan Eggener
 Tim Sneed
 Marlin Blankenship, ex officio
 Carolyn Fridley, ex officio

Not attending

Maribeth Nottingham

1. Call to order. The meeting was called to order at 2:04 p.m. by Randy Prus.
2. Approval of minutes. Lei Qian made the motion to approve the minutes from September 23, 2019, seconded by Tim Sneed. Minutes were approved by acclamation.
3. Program Review. Randy Prus noted that the Liberal & Applied Studies (LAS) program has not been assessed other than through general education. No changes have been made to the program except for the addition of the Capstone course (LAS 4991). The purpose of a program review is to thoroughly examine a program to see what needs to be changed, and in his view, it is worrisome when programs do not change over a ten-year period. John Mischo provided information about the LAS program at Texas A & M Commerce, and in considering them as an external reviewer, they may be a good choice because of their proximity to our campus. Proximity to SE would allow for more direct contact, as opposed to remote contact, i.e. Zoom meetings. Randy Prus suggested that the committee look over the LAS program at Texas A & M Commerce, noting that we might be able to learn from them.
4. Data for Program Review. There was a question about the amount of data that would be needed for the assessment. It was agreed that the committee would request data from the last three years, and once received from Kristie Luke, Associate Dean, Institutional Research & Records, the data would be provided to the committee.
5. Discussion about student recruitment at the Choctaw Nation. AAOC Director Marlin Blankenship explained the on-site recruiting efforts that he and Brad Ludrick, Master of Science in Native American Leadership Coordinator, have been involved in at the Choctaw Nation for the past five months. In addition to the Casino, Marlin and Brad have been to Hugo (OK), Talihina (OK), and to the Choctaw fair last summer. The Choctaw Nation continues to grow and over the next five years, an additional 4,000 jobs will be added. There is a significant push for the employees with some college education to complete their degree. Marlin's understanding is that the Choctaw Nation wants their current employees to graduate, become credentialed, and move up in the company. Marlin has found that there is a lot of interest in online education in three areas: Communication, Business (Accounting and Management) and LAS. There is potential, therefore, for the number of LAS students to increase. The Choctaw Nation offers a tuition reimbursement of \$5,000 per year after one year of employment.

Randy Prus asked if there were plans to have similar conversations with Chickasaws. Marlin reported that there are no plans at this time. With other Tribes, there is passive recruiting, in that an invitation to recruit is preferred, and that a suggested approach would be to ask what we (the university) can do for the Tribe, according to their timeline.

Charles Matthews thanked Marlin for the useful information and suggested that there may be a way for the LAS degree to meet a demand that is not currently being addressed. Perhaps an emphasis in Native Studies or Native Leadership could be added as an option to the degree plan to tailor the degree to meet the needs of these particular students, which would demonstrate that we are being receptive to their needs. Marlin said he thought it would be good to consider this possibility and that it may increase the appeal for the other Tribes too. Marlin noted that the Choctaw Nation is building in Illinois and Arkansas.

Charles Matthews made a motion to form a sub-committee to develop possible ideas about forming a new option for the LAS tailored to the students employed by the Choctaw Nation. Tristan Eggener seconded the motion which was approved by acclamation. The sub-committee will include Marlin Blankenship, Randy Prus, Charles Matthews, and Carolyn Fridley. Brad Ludrick will be invited to participate in this sub-committee, and Marlin will extend that invitation.

6. Coordinator's Report (Carolyn Fridley):

- Request from the Registrar for course prefixes that apply to each of the six Groups
- At the request of Academic Partnerships, a promotional video was filmed for the LAS
- According to Glenn Melancon, Chair of Social Sciences, a 100% online general education History course is only available in the fall semester
- Requested three reports from Kristie Luke: (1) the number of LAS graduates by category (2) which courses are taken most frequently by LAS majors (3) the percentage of online courses taken by LAS majors

7. Adjourn. Tim Sneed made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Charles Matthews. The meeting was adjourned at 3:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Carolyn Fridley