

BSLAS COORDINATING COMMITTEE**March 31, 2020****Meeting Notes** (approval pending)

Zoom meeting, 1:00 p.m.

Attending

Randy Prus, Chair

Lei Qian

Tristan Eggener

Charles Matthews

Maribeth Nottingham

John Mischo

Tim Sneed

Marlin Blankenship, ex officio

Carolyn Fridley, ex officio

1. Call to order. The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m. by Randy Prus.
2. Approval of minutes. Charles Matthews made the motion to approve the minutes from February 28, 2020, seconded by Tristan Eggener. Minutes were approved by acclimation.
3. External consultants for Program Review. Randy Prus reported contacting the directors of General Studies at Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU), University of Central Oklahoma (UCO) and Northeastern State University (NSU) inquiring of their interest to serve as external consultants. There has been no response to a phone call or an e-mail from UCO or NSU. SWOSU replied, expressing interest, and sent a Curriculum Vitae. The information could not be accessed for this meeting because it is on campus, and campus is closed (due to COVID-19).

Randy Prus noted that he heard that Program Reviews may be suspended (due to COVID-19) and asked if the committee was familiar with similar discussions. Charles Matthews reported hearing similar discussions, as part of an e-mail among department chairs. Tim Sneed asked if this would apply to all Program Reviews. Charles Matthews said that it is his understanding that an official decision had not been made, because there are other, more pressing priorities at this time.

Randy Prus pointed out that Kristie Luke (Associate Dean, Institutional Research & Records) has been busy launching Colleague, and that enrollment has been delayed. He asked Carolyn Fridley if she had received all the data that has been requested to complete the Program Review. Carolyn Fridley said that she had, noting that what needs to be incorporated in the draft of the Program Review is the most recent data relevant to LAS grade distribution, LAS retention, LAS graduation rates. Those numbers are not part of the current draft. Additional data that is relevant to the Program Review, and needs to be incorporated into the draft, is a breakdown of LAS students by site (Ardmore, McAlester, Grayson & McCurtain County), and overall enrollment numbers for the last three years. Carolyn Fridley added that she has those numbers, and until the last committee meeting (February 28, 2020) she was unaware that despite not having an obvious place to include those numbers, that she could create a place to insert that information in the Program Review.

Randy Prus reported that he submitted the request for a program modification to Jennifer Swearingin (Coordinator, Institutional Research & Records), to add the Tribal Organizational Leadership option (Group VII). He has not received a reply and is not sure when the Curriculum Committee is meeting. Randy Prus added that this program modification can be included as a self-recommendation in the Program Review. Carolyn Fridley will add this to the draft.

Based on the current draft of the Program Review, Randy Prus asked the committee what additional recommendations might be made. Charles Matthews suggested that the committee think about any changes we might want to make, based on the assessment data we have. Randy Prus asked each committee member individually if they had any recommendations. All responded 'no'. Carolyn Fridley said she had no recommendations at this time, adding that in

writing the draft, she did not consider possible recommendations. Charles Matthews noted that the point of the process is to identify areas that the program could be improved. For example, a recommendation could be to hire another advisor, since that recommendation could be justified by the data. Randy Prus said that he was thinking similarly, given Carolyn Fridley's current advising load of 90 students. A more definitive plan could be developed, based on the data. Other possible self-recommendations could include an LAS advisor at every site, or training of existing advisors at the sites or on campus. The committee will have time to continue the discussion of possible self-recommendations because the Program Review will likely not take place this year. Randy Prus and Carolyn Fridley thanked Charles Matthews for his input.

Randy Prus said he is curious how the LAS degree program will appear in Colleague. Department chairs submitted an 8-semester degree program and wondered how that will work with LAS. Carolyn Fridley noted that she received a request to submit courses and the Groups they could work toward completing. Carolyn Fridley added that she had a long meeting with Teresa Golden (Vice President for Academic Affairs) and Kristie Luke, noting the complexity of that request, and explained the monumental task it would be to comb through the course catalog and offer possible suggestions about where they might fit. Carolyn Fridley reminded Teresa Golden and Kristie Luke that Bryon Clark (Interim President) had given her the flexibility to assign courses to more than one Group, provided there was justification to do so. LAS advisors understand the need for that flexibility. Carolyn Fridley told Teresa Golden and Kristie Luke that she did not have the clerical support to help with the task this request would entail. Charles Matthews said that perhaps a recommendation for the Program Review could be for clerical help. Carolyn Fridley noted that this major is advertised as a customized degree, and based on her advising experience, degree audits are not helpful for students, adding that it is more confusing than clarifying. LAS degree audits in Campus Connect are misleading, and she suspects that they will be equally as misleading in Colleague. Charles Matthews said that this point should be argued, and that these questions should be asked in the Program Review - in a non-biased way. Carolyn Fridley said she is open to the argument that the time commitment is warranted, but that argument was not offered by Teresa Golden or Kristie Luke.

Marlin Blankenship pointed out that Colleague is now available and that the degree audit on Colleague is significantly different from the one on Campus Connect. The degree audit on Campus Connect never functioned as it could have. It would be helpful for student to "try on" a different major without actually changing their major. That is a solid argument for students to have that option and has the potential to reduce the time involved in advising. The programming (for a degree audit in Colleague) would have to be well-thought out; if it worked well it would be helpful, but if not, it would be confusing. A question for Kristie Luke and Craig Musgrove (Director of Administrative Computing) is what will this (programming) look like and what will it take to get it where it needs to be.

Randy Prus observed that advising will be interesting in the coming months, advising via Zoom or by phone. Carolyn Fridley reported that she is already advising via Zoom and finds it to be helpful because the LAS degree plan is unlike degree plans students are familiar with. Zoom allows for sharing the screen which makes it possible to walk students through the organization of the program.

Randy Prus asked Charles Matthews how he is advising Math majors. Charles Matthews said that advising usually happens through e-mail, which he has been doing for years. Students also stop in his office without an appointment. He has not used Zoom yet for advising and said he will be doing so soon. Tim Sneed reported that online advising has been going on for years in the School Counseling program. There are almost 300 advisees and it seems to be going well. Randy Prus said that he usually advises face-to-face, but now there is more phone advising, in addition to e-mails.

Charles Matthews added that when considering self-recommendations, think about asking for things in the best of all possible worlds. He said that it is okay to recommend things that you don't have confidence in receiving. If you don't ask, the assumption is that you don't want. Carolyn Fridley assured Charles Matthews that she is a proponent of asking.

4. Adjourn. Tim Sneed made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Maribeth Nottingham. Motion was approved by acclamation, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Carolyn Fridley