Undergraduate Council Meeting

**October 18, 2018**

**2:00 p.m.**

Macon Campus, Godsey Administration Building, Room 310

The UC meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Mindingall.

Attendance was taken.

Members present in Macon:

Marilyn Mindingall, Provost Office-chair Doug Hill, MUS

Susan Malone, OIE Vincent Youngbauer, TIFT

Sarah May, OIE Stephen Hill, EGR

Achim Kopp, CLA Tony Kemp, Academic Advising

Dee Bratcher, CLA Laura Botts (for Rhodes), LIB

Gary Blome, PEN Alba Rodriguez-Mitchell, Registrar

Members via teleconference:

Arte Kent, SSBE Linda Mason Barber, NUR

Steven McClung, SSBE Linda Streit, NUR

Gail Johnson, PEN Maura Schlairet, NUR

Priscilla Danheiser, PEN Jeff Hall, TIFT

Leslie Taylor, CHP

Guests Admin. Bld.: Guests via teleconference:

Sarah McCommon, Registrar Carol Bokros, Academic Advising

LaShunda Walker, Registrar Kelly McMichael, OIE

Diana Hill, Registrar

Candace Barnett, Pharmacy

Renee Hayslett, Pharmacy

Jordana Berry, Pharmacy-Admissions

Minutes from the September 27, 2018 meeting were reviewed. It was motioned by D. Hill and seconded by Kopp that minutes of the last meeting be approved. Minutes were approved as written.

**Update:**

Special Consideration and Accelerated Special Consideration Programs – Carol Bokros

Bokros was asked to begin with a self-introduction, then to share with the group the nature of her work. She was then asked to give the group an update on the issues pertaining to the SCPs and ASCPs that were raised in the last meeting.

Bokros serves as the Assistant Director of Pre-Health Professions Programs in the Office of Academic and Advising Services. She helps to prepare traditional students for entry into health professional programs. She can be viewed as a secondary advisor to these 1,450 students who are on a “pre-health professions track”.

One issue brought forward during the last meeting centered on the School of Medicine SCP and ASCP programs. Medicine does not have an ASCP program, but CLA references its existence in the CLA section of the catalog. It is included among the 90 credit hour Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences combination programs with the School of Medicine MD. Bokros and Malone explained that Medicine no longer accepts any student into the MD without a bachelor’s or graduate degree. A revision of the CLA section of the catalog (Macon Catalog, pages 123-124) is required under the 4th item of “Degree Programs” – Bachelor of Science in Health Science. A deletion of the first bullet item is warranted: “the School of Medicine Doctor of Medicine program”.

A second issue centered on the “Fast Track Pharmacy Program” (Macon Catalog, page 110). This program was never approved by the UC, yet it appears in the catalog. Bokros stated that including this program in the catalog was premature. Bokros had discussed the program with the College of Pharmacy. Mindingall stated that if there is a desire for this program, it will have to be accepted through the UC. Mindingall admitted that there is no clear protocol for addressing the SCP and ASCP programs via the UC and GC. Curriculum and catalog changes in these programs might best begin with the UC where the colleges/schools that sponsor the program can bring the change forward. The colleges/schools will work in tandem with Bokros on the changes and Bokros can/should be included in the presentation to the UC. More often than not, these changes will be presented to the GC as points of information (the exception would be if the professional school curriculum undergoes changes to their program).

Mindingall strongly recommended that the SCP and ASCP programs be detailed in the “Academic Information” section of the catalog only. The colleges/schools can mention the programs in their sections of the catalog, but should refer the reader to the Academic Information section for more detail. This will ensure consistency of information as the information is updated over time.

Bratcher noted that the catalog changes to the CLA section would have to be approved by the college curriculum committee. She did not foresee a problem, but wanted to report the protocol.

**Certificates:**

Mindingall referred the council members to the latest draft of the certificates policy dated

September 27, 2018. She noted that the segments that were highlighted reflect the discussion from the previous UC meeting. Minor tweaking was suggested to bring clarity. No further discussion occurred.

**A motion to accept as policy and procedure the September 27, 2018 draft document on Credit-bearing Certificates was made by Blome and seconded by Bratcher. Unanimously approved.**

**Proposals:**

A. College of Pharmacy Candace Barnett

**New Program – B.S.**

Pharmaceutical Sciences

The College of Pharmacy proposed a new undergraduate program/major that is also a combined degree program. Students would be awarded the Doctor of Pharmacy degree after completing a minimum of 66 hours of prerequisite coursework followed by the completion of the four-year professional program comprising 149 credit hours. After the completion of the prerequisite coursework and two years of the professional program, students would be awarded the BS in Pharmaceutical Sciences (BSPH). The BSPH consists of a minimum of 138 credit hours and is offered only to students who do not possess a bachelor’s degree. Currently, approximately 200 students (34%) in the College of Pharmacy do not possess a bachelor’s degree.

Barnett reviewed program outcomes and financial aid implications.

*Discussion/Questions:*

Malone noted that the program is available to any student who does not have a bachelor’s degree and not just Mercer students. Mindingall noted that the “Fast Track” program is not relevant at this time and the reference to it should be eliminated. Pharmacy and Carol Bokros may have further discussion about that program. Danheiser asked about the general education and where it would be completed. General education can be taken at any regionally accredited university, but it must be completed as a prerequisite prior to enrollment in the Pharmacy program. McCommon noted that the science courses must be of the type taken by science majors.

Mindingall reported that the proposal will have to go before the University General Education Committee for approval of the GenEd. Any action taken by the UC would be contingent on the UGEC outcome. This proposal will also go before the Board of Trustees during their November meeting.

Bratcher discussed her understanding of the various paths to Doctor of Pharmacy degree. To her, the BSPH implies a “fast track” and there may be implications and/or confusion with the CLA/Pharmacy Accelerated Special Consideration Program. Also, she questions whether or not students who begin the program in CLA will be able to waive the religion GenEd requirement. She suggested language that would make clear that Religion is only waived for transfer students. Bratcher inquired about the 66 prerequisite credit hours as CLA has a number of four-hour courses and students coming from CLA would not fit the 66. Barnett stated that for CLA students the “66” is actually 75 credits. Bratcher is not comfortable with moving CLA students into the Pharmacy program earlier than the ASCP. Malone explained that Pharmacy approved the reduction in total credit hours for their program last year through the Graduate Council. Bratcher wished that this information had been shared with the undergraduate programs.

Bratcher asked that where possible the distinctions between transfer students from other institutions and those who enter this program from Mercer CLA be clarified. Mindingall agreed and noted that the subtle differences among the various paths to degree were going to be very difficult for Carol Bokros to try to explain to students and parents. Also, Admissions may have trouble trying to understand, explain, and sell the various paths. Malone reminded the group that the ASCP is still available to CLA students.

May asked for clarification on those students who may not complete the doctoral degree. Barnett stated that if the student completed the requirements for the BSPH, that student would get that degree when it is completed. However, the BSPH would not be marketed as an independent degree, but rather a degree on the path to the doctorate.

Bratcher asked about catalog placement. It will go in the Atlanta Catalog in the Pharmacy section.

**Motion to accept the Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences (with the suggested tweaking of language for clarity, to include Religion and its consideration as part of general education) as a new and combined degree program was made by Blome, seconded by D. Hill. Unanimously approved.**

B. Penfield College Gary Blome

Revise Program – Delivery Method

B.S.

Human Services

Penfield College proposed to revise their B.S. program in Human Services. The program is currently offered face-to-face. The College intends to add a fully on-line version. Blome noted that all courses in the program are already offered face-to face and on-line. All faculty members have been trained in on-line teaching. Mindingall inquired about the provision of student services on-line. Blome reported that on-line student services will be provided.

*Discussion/Questions:*

None

**Motion to revise the delivery method (adding an on-line version) for the B.S. in Human Services was made by Kopp and seconded by S. Hill. Approved unanimously.**

C. College of Liberal Arts Dee Bratcher

Psychology

Revise Courses (2)

PSY 190, Introduction to Research Process

PSY 495, Directed Independent Research

The College of Liberal Arts proposed to revise the pre-req and frequency for PSY 190 and revise the credit hours for PSY 495. PSY 190 will now add “Permission of department chair” as the pre-req and the course will be offered every semester. PSY 495 will allow this variable credit course (1-4 hours) to be repeated for a maximum of 6 credit hours.

*Discussion/Questions:*

None

**Motion to revise PSY 190 and PSY 495 in the aforementioned manner was made by Blome and seconded by S. Hill. Unanimously approved.**

D. Georgia Baptist College of Nursing Linda Streit & Linda Mason Barber

New Program – BSN

Hybrid Accelerated

The Georgia Baptist College of Nursing proposed a new program – the Hybrid Accelerated BSN. Mindingall asked Streit and Barber to explain the partnership associated with this program and to inform the group of the current status of the program.

The program has partnered with Orbis Education. This company has worked with about 20 nursing programs across the country to help them to quickly and efficiently bring them about. The degree proposed is the same degree currently offered – the BSN. However, this is a different student population. Students in this program will have already earned a bachelor’s degree in some other field and they meet the course pre-reqs for program entry. This type of program represents a wave across the nation which fosters efficiency in completing the BSN. Similar programs may extend 14-16 months. Mercer will have the only program in Georgia that is a 12 month program. This program will help address the nursing shortage across the state and nation.

Orbis offers the strategies, marketing, and financial assistance. The Orbis/Mercer contract is confidential so Nursing cannot provide any more detail to the UC. Streit notes that the program has been reviewed by the Provost, Dr. Netherton, and President Underwood. All are in favor of moving forward with this program and the Orbis agreement. Nursing has worked collaboratively with the Mercer support offices to put the program in place.

The program will consist of 56 total nursing course hours that will be completed over 3 semesters. The plan is to begin the program Summer 2019. Enrollments will occur each semester. The first summer may only have 12 students, but that small number will allow the College time to perfect the program.

This program will be run separately from the other BSN. An off-campus site will need to be secured. Orbis will fund this and various program pieces, including faculty. Orbis will receive a portion of the revenue generated through tuition. The College maintains control of the curriculum. Streit reports that there are no accreditation issues. The Georgia Board of Nursing approved the program in September.

Nursing has collectively reviewed some of the Orbis student outcomes and noted that the pass rate on nursing board exams is 94%. The retention rate is 96%. Students in these programs are highly vetted. Students will not be able to do this program out of state, so interested out-of-state students will have to relocate to Georgia. This program is modeled after the already successful Mercer BSN program. It is not likely that students will be able to maintain jobs once in this program because it is so intense. Tuition waiver will not be offered.

*Discussion/Questions:*

Mindingall indicated her appreciation to Nursing for getting key support and backing for this program early on so that they would not invest time and energy on a proposal that key administrators would not support. Mindingall also pointed to some incomplete portions of the proposal that will likely be addressed in the near future. These include: location, program coordinator, and the 16 new course numbers. She asked that Nursing give the UC updates on the program and to inform the group when these missing pieces are filled. The new courses will need to be brought to the UC for action. Barber noted that the course syllabi have been outlined and are included in the proposal. Streit noted that the site is awaiting approval from Dr. Netherton and that approval should occur soon.

McMichael inquired about the SLOs. He is aware that the outcomes are the same as for the other BSN program. He inquired as to how some would be met in the new program. He cautioned against a compromise of the skills portion of the outcomes. Barber explained that the program would include both didactic and experiential portions. Also, the type of student – mature with degree – would better ensure meeting the outcomes and ultimately ensure program success. Streit noted that from an accreditation standpoint, the outcomes in one BSN program should reflect the other. She also noted that Nursing will partner intently with various health care systems. These health care systems have expressed interest in this population of nurses and sees the advantage of getting mature nurses with life experiences. The metrics for measuring this group may differ from those for the students in the other BSN program.

Bratcher asked for clarification on some of the course offerings. She wanted to know if courses such as microbiology, statistics, and religion could be taken at Mercer in conjunction with the nursing courses. Streit explained that these courses are part of the admission requirements and there is no room in the curriculum to allow them to be taken along with the nursing courses. They must be completed before entry into the program. Students needing the courses would likely take them elsewhere and then transfer them in. Bratcher asked if this program would alter the current policy related to individuals seeking a second and different bachelor’s degree after graduation. Mindingall stated that it would not.

Mindingall reported that this program would not have to go to the UGEC, but it would be presented to the Board of Trustees.

**Motion to add the Hybrid Accelerated BSN to the curriculum was made by Blome and seconded by S. Hill. Unanimously approved.**

Mindingall announced that the next meeting would occur in February, but she encouraged the group to get their proposals in as early as possible.

Adjourn: 3:30 p.m.

Submitted by: Marilyn P. Mindingall, Ph.D.

10/25/2018