3/1/19

**Bachelor of University Studies Summary**

*Program Overview*

The Bachelor of University Studies (BUS) program at the inception was "to enable students in the university who are interested in a major beyond those now offered to help define and plan their academic careers from courses offered in the university as a whole." The program allows students to propose and pursue an individualized, interdisciplinary major not otherwise achievable within the current structure of the University.

BUS proposals are reviewed and approved by the University Studies Committee, a ten-member faculty committee selected by the Personnel and Elections Committee of the Academic Senate. Multiple committee meetings are scheduled each Fall and Spring semesters, where the student/faculty advisor team is asked to come and discuss their proposal with the committee.

I was placed in a leadership role on July 1st, 2017 when I took over for the departing director, Ed Barbanell.

*Student Activities*

So far, during the 2018-2019 academic year, we have had a total of 9 proposals reviewed and nine approved. During the first review in September, we reviewed four proposals and accepted four. During the November meeting, we reviewed four proposals. Two proposals were, and 2 required additional clarification that was discussed during the February meeting.

During the February meeting, the committee reviewed one proposal, and it was accepted. Before this meeting, I recommended that two students hold off on their proposal so that they were better prepared. It is anticipated that they will present during the second half meeting.

*Administrative Activities*

From an administrative perspective, the program has stabilized and is working very smoothly. We have adopted a digital submission process using FormStack which has streamlined the submission and the review process immensely. We have developed a sequence of events when advising students that work well, and the quality of submissions appears to be quite high. We have initiated a fundraising campaign to provide discretionary money to support students in their activities as a BUS student. This might be related to going to a conference, providing supplies for a project, etc.

*Goals*

Working with the two BUS advisors, we have streamlined our communication with the students to get them prepared for upcoming advising events and also graduation. This has significantly decreased the number of questions that we receive, and I am sure helping the students navigate the system while not being firmly matriculated in defined major. We have determined that as of now, we will not conduct a BUS student presentation as the interest from students and others are quite low. As we continue with our fundraising efforts, we will try for the goal of $30,000. Also, we will identify individuals who would like to be part of a BUS alumni network so we can connect current BUS students with graduates for advising and mentorship. In the fall we will also submit the paperwork to change the name to Bachelor of Interdisciplinary studies and work towards offering a BIS minor program.

*Budget*

Currently, the BUS program has no budget. UGS provides support for the advisors through internal funding mechanisms. Because we are fundraising, we are not requesting a budget for the 2018 – 2019 fiscal year.