

**College of Liberal Arts and Sciences**  
**Committee on Undergraduate Studies and Advising (CUSA)**  
**2017-2018 Annual Report**

**Chair: Marshall Maude, Visual Art**

**Dean's office: Associate Dean Holly Storkel**

**CASS: Karen Ledom**

Each year the Dean of the College provides a set of charges to the Committee on Undergraduate Studies and Advising. The charges are included below, followed by a short summary highlighting CUSA's actions.

*1. Develop a process, using the College bylaws as a possible framework, for electing the chair of CUSA.*

A formal policy was formulated with the goal of transparency and inclusion. This policy was passed and is now part of the College bylaws. This change was implemented in the selection of the new Chair (2018-2019). This policy was shared with CAC.

*2. Based on progress to date, continue in the discussion of potential barriers to student progression as they relate to the quantitative reasoning requirement and surrounding policies. As warranted based on the discussion, the committee may proceed in identifying and pursuing policy related to those barriers.*

A major component of CUSA's work addressed and continued the discussion, policy changes, and implementation related to the quantitative reasoning requirement for the College's BA degree. This requirement is in addition to the KU Core Goal 1.2. This work is completed and can be subdivided into three topics.

- Approve courses that provide students alternative pathways to achieve the required coursework.
- Write new policy language that quantifies the requirement and opens possibilities for additional courses.
- Formalize a list of courses within the College that meet the new quantitative reasoning requirements and formulate a process to add and remove courses from this list.

Additional work unrelated to the quantitative reasoning requirement, but undertaken with the intention of removing barriers to student progression, was completed and/or begun by CUSA.

- Departmental Honors Criteria Review
  - Considerable research and work was undertaken by the Policy & Awards subcommittee. Policy language is still being developed and will be revisited in 2018-2019.
- Course Overlap Policy Review
  - After extensive discussion, CUSA proposes that all restrictions related to course overlap among majors or minors be removed as a College-level policy restriction

and replaced by the option for each department/program to determine what restrictions, if any, should exist related to each specific major or minor.

It makes sense that if a student earns a particular major, for example, following the set curriculum, they would earn that degree/major. Likewise, if they completed all requirements for a particular minor, they would earn that minor. CUSA felt that any overlap that might occur while completing requirements for different majors and minors should be considered by the awarding departments as to whether additional coursework should be required, or whether a student could earn both, despite the potential overlap.

CUSA's proposal has been discussed at CAC, with feedback provided to CUSA. CUSA considered feedback, edited the proposal language, and passed the edited proposal at the May 8, 2018 CUSA meeting. Also in response to CAC's request, the proposed changes will be vetted a second time with all College departments and programs in order to be sure all units have a clear understanding of the proposal as well as the range of options available in conjunction with the change.

Upon final approval, a timeline will be determined for effective term of implementation in order to ensure departments and programs have sufficient time to consider any desired changes to policies or procedures related to this change.

*3. Consider ways in which CUSA can expand collaboration efforts with UCCC to better facilitate the review process and maintain a shared philosophical approach to consideration of proposals, especially those that are precedent setting (i.e. language courses as Goal 4.2).*

- The CUSA chair, Curricular Changes subcommittee chair, Associate Dean, and Director of College Advising & Student Services met in late fall with the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies and the UCCC chair to discuss several areas of specific concern (topics courses, language acquisition courses, Goal 5.1 proposals, multiple Goal proposals for single course), as well as to discuss broader partnerships among the two committees with the goal of establishing a clearer, shared understanding of KU Core criteria.
- Language outlining CUSA's role in the KU Core review process has been finalized by CUSA, codified in a procedures document, and shared with College members of UCCC as well as the current chair, Dr. Burns-Wallace, and the UCCC coordinator. Feedback from UCCC is being considered by CUSA. If changes to the procedures document are accepted by CUSA, the document will be updated accordingly and all related language in the College bylaws will also be updated.
- Changes to the College bylaws addressing KU Core proposals have been drafted for submission to CAC.
- A change to policy language for the BA Quantitative Reasoning course has been passed to define the specific criteria for course consideration for the BA Quantitative Reasoning requirement, and to clarify that although an approved course may also be approved for KU Core Goal 1.2, the course taken to fulfill the BA requirement is in addition to meeting this KU Core goal.

## Additional Subcommittee Work

1. Policy & Awards. The Policy & Awards subcommittee worked on several curricular projects for CUSA and completed their regular work which includes the awarding of the below listed scholarships and awards:
  - Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Advising – Physics & Astronomy
  - Grant Goodman Undergraduate Mentor Award – Daniel Hernandez – Math
  - J. Michael Young Academic Advisor Award – Chi Zhang – Geography and Environmental Studies
  - Paul Lawson Scholarship – Rachel Yu Ru Tan
  - Hilden Gibson Award – Anna Buhlinger
  - Betty Wahlstedt Scholarship – Emily Casteen
  - Van Eekeren Family Scholarship – Ashley Eshnaur
  - Veta B. Lear Award – Abigail Davidow
  - John Ise Award – Conner Falke
2. Curricular Changes & Degree Requirements. The Curricular Changes & Degree Requirements subcommittee experienced its usual high volume of curricular changes this year in addition to their work on the dean's charges. Additionally, the subcommittee continued to review KU Core nominations on behalf of CUSA.

New Courses: 126

New Programs: 2

Course Changes: 205

Program Changes: 107

Course Deactivations: 234

New Certificates: 4

BGS Career Prep Courses: 1

Elimination of Major Admissions Requirements: 1

Changes to Departmental Honors Requirements: 1