

Undergraduate Council Minutes
April 14, 2026/ 3:30-5 pm Main Building Room 009F

Members Present

Kristine Urschel, Chair
Julie Schmidt
Steven Arthur
Arryn Blaine
Shelby Clark (Zoom)
Sarah Cprek
Cory Curl
Dustin Faulstick
Joe Lewis
Justin Nichols
Alicia Modenbach
Mark O'Bryan
Ashley Vowels (Zoom)
Nathan Congleton

Members Absent

Jessica Barfield
Kate Field
Regina Hannemann
Kaitlin Key
John Kim
Katherine Pauline
Miranda Hines

Guests

Meg Marquis
Josh Taylor

Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome

Meeting called to order at 3:34 pm

2. Approval of agenda (including consent agenda items)

Prior to approving the agenda, EES 290 and EES 345 were added to the consent agenda.

Motion to approve by Sarah Cprek: seconded by Alicia Modenbach; All approved

3. Approval of March 24, 2026 meeting minutes

Motion to approve by Mark O'Bryan: seconded by Alicia Modenbach; All approved

4. Proposal review

- a) Consent Agenda

O'Bryan, Blaine, Vowels

[AAD 150](#)- Change course

[ACC 399](#)- Change course (major)

Hannemann, Barfield, Nichols

[AFE 336](#)- New course

[AFE 337](#)- New course

Modenbach, O'Bryan, Hannemann

[BIO 390](#)- New course

Paullin, Key, Kirn

[CJ 314](#)- Change course (major)

[CJ 431](#)- Change course (major)

Barfield, Curl, O'Bryan

[CLA 100](#)- Change course (with UK Core)

[CLA 261](#)- Change course (with UK Core)

Modenbach, Clark, Nichols

[CRW 327](#)- New course

[CRW 347](#)- New course

[CRW 395](#)- New course

[CRW 437](#)- New course

[CRW 498](#)- New course

Arthur, Faulstick, Vowels

[EES 240](#)- New course

[EES 290](#)- New course

[EES 345](#)- New course

Vowels, Nichols, Barfield

[ENG 398](#)- New course

[WRD 407](#)- New course

Vowels, Paullin, Faulstick

[HJS 235](#)- Change course (with UK Core)

[JOU 256](#)- Change course (with UK Core)

Clark, O'Bryan, Modenbach

[JOU 487](#)- New course

b) Discussion Agenda

Nichols, Modenbach, Clark

[BA Creative Writing](#)- New degree

Rationale: This proposal seeks to establish a major in Creative Writing to begin in Fall 2026. The proposed Creative Writing major would offer both undergraduate Bachelor of Arts (BA) and Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) degrees in Creative Writing. Housed within the Creative Writing Division of the Department of English, the major in Creative Writing will better serve current students by satisfying a recognized need. This multi-disciplinary focus on writing—storytelling, creativity, and poetics—is based on a solid academic foundation and will help students hone writing and editing, critical thinking, and other professional skills for today's creative or commercial workforce. Students will be able to prepare for jobs in the private sector, develop their writing skills for publication, or develop a body of work toward applying to an MFA or PhD in creative writing.

Additional discussion: No additional discussion

Motion to approve by Justin Nichols: seconded by Alicia Modenbach; All approved

[BFA Creative Writing](#)- New degree

Rationale: This proposal seeks to establish a major in Creative Writing to begin in Fall 2026. The proposed Creative Writing major would offer both undergraduate Bachelor of Arts (BA) and Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) degrees in Creative Writing. Housed within the Creative Writing Division of the Department of English, the major in Creative Writing will better serve current students by satisfying a recognized need. This multi-disciplinary focus on writing—storytelling, creativity, and poetics—is based on a solid academic foundation and will help students hone writing and editing,

critical thinking, and other professional skills for today's creative or commercial workforce. Students will be able to prepare for jobs in the private sector, develop their writing skills for publication, or develop a body of work toward applying to an MFA or PhD in creative writing.

Additional discussion: No additional discussion

Motion to approve by Justin Nichols: seconded by Alicia Modenbach; All approved

Vowels, Nichols, Barfield

[BA English](#)- Change degree

Rationale: 1) We have removed CIS 110 or WRD 110 Composition as premajor requirements because they are already university requirements and it is unnecessary to list them as premajor requirements. 2) We have removed ENG 241 and ENG 251 from the Early Period requirement so that these courses no longer can be double counted with the Survey Requirement. We have added ENG 352 and ENG 362 to the list of courses approved for the Early Period requirement and we have clarified that students can count the Early Period requirement as one of their elective courses. 3) We have removed the diversity requirement to comply with house bill 4. 4) We have added a required course, ENG 398 Careers in English to serve as capstone. 5) Majors are no longer required to take 9 hours at the 200 level from outside the department. We want majors to use these hours to take more classes from within the major. One of the classes will be the required ENG 398 Careers in English and one of them can be the Early Period Requirement. Of the remaining courses, two can be taken in Creative Writing, but at least six must be taken from Literature and Film courses and meet the following requirements: two courses can be at the 200-level (the 2 courses taken to fulfill the Historical Survey requirement cannot be double-counted, and not 209, 210, or 221), three courses must be at the 400-level or above (not ENG 401, 405, 407, or 425), the rest must be at the 300-level and above (not 301 or 310, and the Early Period required course may double-count here).

Additional discussion: No additional discussion

Motion to approve by Justin Nichols; seconded by Ashley Vowels; All approved

Curl, O'Bryan, Arthur

[BS Aerospace Engineering](#)- Change degree

Rationale: This proposal is to change the requirement for engineering standing. Based on a review of student data, the department determined that the current engineering standing requirements were not reliable predictors of student success. The revised engineering standing requirements ensure that students demonstrate proficiency in the courses most critical to success in the degree program. The revised engineering standing removes several courses from those needed to achieve standing. The proposed engineering-standing requirement is: A cumulative UK GPA of at least 2.5 and successful completion of all pre-major courses. Successful completion of the following courses with at least a 2.5 GPA: CHE 105, EM 221, MA 113, MA 114, MA

213, PHY 231, and PHY 232, and a C or better in each course. If a course is repeated, the best grade will be used for calculation of GPA in the above listed courses.

Additional discussion: No additional discussion

Motion to approve by Cory Curl: seconded by Mark O'Bryan; All approved

Faulstick, Key, Clark

BS Mechanical Engineering- Change degree

Rationale: This proposal includes two changes to the BS Mechanical Engineering.

Change 1: Change the requirement for engineering standing. Based on a review of student data, the department determined that the current engineering standing requirements were not reliable predictors of student success. The revised engineering standing requirements ensure that students demonstrate proficiency in the courses most critical to success in the degree program. The revised engineering standing removes several courses from those needed to achieve standing. The proposed engineering-standing requirement is: A cumulative UK GPA of at least 2.5 and successful completion of all pre-major courses. Successful completion of the following courses with at least a 2.5 GPA: CHE 105, EM 221, MA 113, MA 114, MA 213, PHY 231, and PHY 232, and a C or better in each course. If a course is repeated, the best grade will be used for calculation of GPA in the above listed courses. **Change 2:** To streamline the process and reduce administrative burden, we propose that any course with an ME-prefix or cross-listed as an ME-prefix course that is 300- level or higher and is not otherwise required for the BSME degree count as a technical elective. This change will eliminate the need for frequent updates to the elective list, ensuring consistency and flexibility for students in selecting their courses.

Additionally, we are clarifying which AER-prefix courses can count as technical electives and adding EGR 398 and EGR 399 to the technical elective list. The overall number of courses available to students as technical electives will increase slightly as a result of this change, and the wording will be much more compact and require less frequent updates.

Additional discussion: No additional discussion

Motion to approve by Dustin Faulstick: seconded by Steven Arthur; All approved

Barfield, Nichols, Hannemann

New- Undergraduate- One Health Certificate- New certificate

Rationale: The certificate in One Health examines the connections and interdependence between human, animal, and environmental health. Students learn the significance of One Health, its impact on daily life, and the importance of adopting a One Health approach to enhance well-being across all areas. The program highlights emerging health threats such as zoonotic diseases, antimicrobial resistance

(AMR), climate change, and food security. Students will evaluate strategies for collaborative problem-solving and sustainable health solutions using a systems approach, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to contribute to research, policy, and practical interventions in One Health.

Additional discussion: No additional discussion

Motion to approve by Justin Nichols: seconded by Cory Curl; All approved

Cprek, Arthur, Paullin

Undergraduate Certificate- Esport Athlete Performance and Management- Suspend
Rationale: The director of the certificate has left the department and he taught highly specialized coursework that served as a requirement for the certificate. Faculty resources no longer exist for this certificate and interest has been minimal.

Additional discussion: No additional discussion

Motion to approve by Sarah Cprek: seconded by Steven Arthur; All approved

c) Proposals for general discussion

5. Old business

- a) Proposal from B&E to remove maximum number of credits that may be earned through internships (Meg Marquis and Josh Taylor available to answer questions)

Discussion: The presenters clarified that the desire of this proposal was for less “policing” of what students choose to do with their free electives and to give the programs long term flexibility for applied learning. The proposal is simply to remove the language that limits internships to 6 credits and will not specifically promote that there is no upper limit to the number of internship credits a student can count towards their degree. It is anticipated that the most internships a single student would take would be 3 or 4, which is consistent with the 12 credit maximum for B-E 396.

Motion to approve by Justin Nichols seconded by Cory Curl; All approved

6. New business

7. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Mark O’Bryan: seconded by Sarah Cprek; Meeting adjourned at 4:16 pm.