

# UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON CURRICULUM (UCOC)

## MINUTES

*April 3, 2019*

2:00-3:30 pm

\*\*\*\*ACC 312\*\*\*\*

### I. UCOC MINUTES

#### A. February 2019 (Amended)

- *Attachment: UCOC February 2019 Minutes\_Amended*

➔ **APPROVED**

#### B. March 2019

- *Attachment: UCOC March 2019 Minutes*

**DEFERRED FOR FURTHER REVIEW**

### II. OLD BUSINESS

#### A. Multiple Undergraduate Degrees, Continued Discussion from Previous Years (Brian Head, AHS Chair and Geoff Shiflett, SES Chair)

**DISCUSSED APRIL, 2019** Discussion centered on the double major/second bachelor distinction, what constitutes a BA and which academic units offer/confer a BA.

Chair Chi Mak, Professor of Chemistry, discussed his research into the history of his department's BA and BS, which are majors of the same scientific discipline and both in Dornsife, noting that the BA was original to the college and the BS was something of an exception to the initial configuration of the BA. Mak added that clearly USC offers other 'Arts' degrees, particularly BFAs, which incorporate additional applied or studio-based components, but the Chemistry BA and BS both equally incorporate breadth and depth, the hallmark of a liberal arts education at USC.

Mak cited a previous conversation with Associate Registrar Matt Bemis (not present) that led to a better understanding of the pragmatic considerations from Bemis' perspective, the primary foci of which are reporting, peer institution practices, technical limitations, and the algorithm necessary to make degree tracking and posting happen, while never purposefully discounting philosophical considerations.

Associate Vice Provost Robin Romans commented on the history of liberal arts education, in general and at USC.

Geoff Shiflett, SES Chair and Professor of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering, returned to what currently constitutes a double major and second bachelor's degree, what degrees and how many diplomas are earned, and how this is represented in the catalogue. He referenced Viterbi's proposal to create BAs in the engineering departments that could be coupled with, for example, the BS in Business Administration if USC's definition of and requirements for multiple degrees/majors could be more flexible. Megan Chan, Financial Aid, Compliance and Training, added a compliance perspective and noted the obligation to observe several distinctions very carefully, primarily related to the timing and the awarding of second bachelor's as opposed to double majors, which may have an impact on funding and aid.

Mak said he would like to explore these questions further and work with Dornsife to identify how their leadership would respond to BAs being offered in other schools, and whether they should continue to be conferred by Dornsife.

### III. NEW BUSINESS

#### A. Student Workload Guidelines (Geoff Shiflett, SES Chair)

**DEFERRED**, out of time.

### IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

#### A. Scheduled Special Topics Report

- *Attachment: March 2019-April 2019 Special Topics*

**Members Present**

Diane Badame  
Steven Bucher  
Megan Chan (Financial Aid)  
John DeMartini (Support Staff)  
Donna Garcia  
Judy Garner  
Lawrence Green  
Chi Mak (Chair)  
Danielle Mihram  
Robin Romans  
Geoffrey Shiflett

**Members Absent**

Matt Bemis (Assoc. Registrar)  
Brian Head

**Guests**