

College of Liberal Arts Curriculum Committee
Minutes of the First Meeting of the Fall 2025 Semester
10:30 AM on October 7th, 2025
Liberal Arts Building, Dean's Conference Room, Room 342

Chair: Selfa Chew-Melendez

I. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 10:30 AM

II. Quorum Call

Arthur Aguirre	<i>Leadership and Community Engagement</i>	Present
Irma Montelongo	<i>Chicano Studies, Languages, Linguistics</i>	Present
Chris Guerra	<i>Criminal Justice and Security Studies</i>	Present
Carina Heckert	<i>Sociology and Anthropology</i>	Present
Taeko Hiroi	<i>Political Science and Public Administration</i>	Present
Heather Kaplan	<i>Art</i>	Present
Lindsey Macchiarella	<i>Music</i>	Present
Teresa Quezada	<i>English</i>	Present
Aliya Rumana	<i>Philosophy</i>	Present
Ana Schwartz	<i>Psychology</i>	Present
James Stratton	<i>Theatre and Dance</i>	Present
Jorge Aguilar Cruz	<i>Communication</i>	Present
Silvia Aguilar-Zeleny	<i>Creative Writing</i>	Present
Quorum:	8	
Members Present:	13 of 15	

Also in Attendance:

Eric Boyer	<i>Political Science and Public Administration</i>	Present
Julianne Flores	<i>Office of the Dean – College of Liberal Arts</i>	Present
Genna Gaspere	<i>Political Science and Public Administration</i>	Present
Stacie Ordonez	<i>Criminal Justice and Security Studies</i>	Present
Joe Ortiz	<i>English</i>	Present
Ana Schwartz	<i>Psychology</i>	Present
Jose Villalobos	<i>Political Science and Public Administration</i>	Present

III. Revision and Approval of May 2025 Minutes

- Revisions: None
- Motion: Unanimous consent
- May 2025 Minutes Approved

IV. Revision and Approval of October 2025 Agenda

- Revisions: None
- Motion: Unanimous consent
- October 2025 Agenda Approved

V. New Business

- Department of Political Science and Public Administration
 - Creation of a Bachelor's of Public Administration
 - Discussion led by Eric Boyer and Genna Gaspare
 - A bachelor's degree in public administration is vital for the Paso del Norte region (El Paso, Las Cruces, and Ciudad Juárez), preparing graduates with skills in management, budgeting, decision-making, and public service. With over 12,000 public administration jobs and nearly 18,600 nonprofit roles in El Paso County alone, the program supports strong local demand. Graduates will be well equipped for roles in government, nonprofits, and binational institutions, helping strengthen regional capacity to serve diverse communities.
 - Motion: Unanimous consent
 - Undergraduate curriculum change approved as submitted
- Department of English
 - Change to BA degree plan, course title, and description, and additions to Humanities block elective offerings.
 - Discussion led by Joe Ortiz
 - The change to the BA English degree plan will add select graduate courses to elective options and enable students to take Fast Track eligible courses within degree plan before they begin their student teaching requirement. The revised course title and description for ENGL 3349 will better match the content of the course, which has changed dramatically with the emergence of digital writing and networked literacies.
 - Motion: Unanimous consent
 - Undergraduate curriculum change approved as submitted
- Department of Criminal Justice and Security Studies
 - Restriction on CRIJ 3313 Criminology
 - Discussion led by Stacie Ordonez
 - Currently, freshmen and sophomores are allowed to take this junior level class. The department would like only juniors and seniors to register for this class. Therefore, the department is asking for the following restriction to be placed: Must be enrolled in one of the following classifications: Junior and Senior.
 - Motion: Unanimous consent
 - Undergraduate curriculum change approved as submitted
- Department of Criminal Justice and Security Studies
 - Restrictions for CRIJ 4309
 - Discussion led by Stacie Ordonez
 - The internship course is designed as a capstone experience where students apply academic knowledge in professional settings.
 - Motion: Unanimous consent
 - Undergraduate curriculum change approved as submitted

- Department of Criminal Justice and Security Studies
 - Restrictions for INSS 4366
 - Discussion led by Stacie Ordonez
 - Students must complete INSS 3302 before enrolling in INSS 4366 to ensure they have the necessary foundation in intelligence concepts and analytical skills.
 - Motion: Unanimous consent
 - Undergraduate curriculum change approved as submitted
- Department of Criminal Justice and Security Studies
 - Fast-Track Program Between the BA- Security Studies and Master of Defense and Strategic Studies
 - Discussion led by
 - There is room to increase recruitment in the Bachelor of Security Studies and Masters of Defense and Strategic Studies programs through the creation of a fast-track path between these two 100% online degrees. This will offer an attractive, expedited path for talented undergraduate students to be able to complete a master's degree in the Security Studies field.
 - Motion: Unanimous consent to table this proposal for the next meeting, as the presenter was absent.
- Department of Psychology
 - Adding From Molecules to Behavior and Introduction to Cognitive Neuroscience
 - Discussion led by Ana Schwartz
 - Molecules to Behavior and Introduction to Cognitive Neuroscience are advanced courses designed to fill key gaps in the neuroscience curriculum. Molecules to Behavior offers graduate and upper-division undergraduates exposure to the latest research in behavioral neuroscience through guest lectures by leading experts using innovative experimental methods. Introduction to Cognitive Neuroscience is the only course focused specifically on human cognitive processes, complementing existing offerings in behavioral neuroscience and addiction studies.
 - Motion: Unanimous consent
 - Undergraduate curriculum change approved as submitted
- Department of Psychology
 - PSYC UG Removing Prereq for PSYC 4324
 - Discussion led by Ana Schwartz
 - This course is designed to be appropriate for majors outside of psychology such as Neuroscience majors as well as others throughout the college and university. As a consequence the prerequisites are not appropriate and is preventing students from other majors from enrolling in the course.
 - Motion: Unanimous consent with a friendly amendment to edit the Rationale Section of the proposal. The letter "g" is missing, as stated, "prerequisite is not appropriate and is preventin students".
 - Undergraduate curriculum change approved as submitted

- Department of Psychology
 - Add PSYC 4324 as block elective
 - Discussion led by Ana Schwartz
 - Currently psychology offers 3 block electives, each representing a different subdiscipline in psychology, each corresponding to different areas within the Psychology Department (cognitive psychology, legal psychology and health psychology). Currently there is not a block elective representing the subdiscipline of psychobiology. Not only is this a key subdiscipline within psychology, it is an area within the Psychology Department.
 - Motion: Unanimous consent with a friendly amendment to edit the Rationale Section of the proposal. The letter “g” is missing, as stated, “prerequisite is not appropriate and is preventin students”.
 - Undergraduate curriculum change approved as submitted
- Department of Psychology
 - Replacing required General Experimental Psychology lecture and lab with Research Methods course
 - Discussion led by Ana Schwartz
 - This proposal seeks to address ongoing challenges with the current course structure, including issues related to student confusion, enrollment difficulties, and time-to-degree, while maintaining academic rigor and enhancing the overall student experience. This proposal also takes into consideration faculty teaching load.
 - Motion: Unanimous consent
 - Undergraduate curriculum change approved as submitted

VI. Other Business

- No other business to discuss

VII. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 11:04 AM

Posted: October 9, 2025