UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL ACTION MINUTES
October 12, 2012
1:30 – 3:00 pm PAC 3 I

Called by: Harshavardhan Bapat, Chair.
Attending: B. Kahn, W. Kline, B. Moore (staff to council), K. Moranski (ex-officio), S. Sagmoen (ex-officio).
Guests: Eric Hadley-Ives, Keith Burton.
Absent: M. Cavanagh, A. Mulvey, J. Villegas, E. Putnam.

AGENDA

- Liberty Studies Minor – Eric Hadley-Ives from Liberal and Integrative Studies and Keith Burton from the College of Liberal Arts and Science Dean’s office were present to answer questions about the proposed Liberty Studies minor. Responding to questions from UGC members, Hadley-Ives and Burton explained that courses for the minor are already built into the department. All LIS faculty will teach associated courses and are behind the new minor 100%. LIS department thinks there is a huge market for this minor, with potential for growth. As for sustainability, students are already taking these courses, so offering a minor may attract more interest. Advocacy for the minor is important to get the program in place, but the department sees no problem sustaining the program in case of changes in faculty. This minor is designed to attract campus-wide interest. Specifically, this minor may attract students of Political Science, Social Work, Business and Teacher Education. Cross listing the courses should be considered to generate interest. Chair thanked Hadley-Ives and Burton for their input, and stated UGC will be forwarding a memo to the Campus Senate with the proposal for the minor.

- Kahn moved to approve minutes from September 28, 2012 meeting, Kline second. The minutes were approved unanimously.

- Continued discussion of the Schuman Report. L. Pardie is requesting a summative report to the Campus Senate from UGC. Discussion today focused on first main area of concern from the report, which is staffing. There is no commitment from the administration to fund more staffing. UGC has concerns about faculty load, and how individual departments are impacted by staffing honors courses. A steering committee may be helpful in developing a concrete set of requirements and incentives for faculty who teach honors courses. There was also general conversation about the nature of the honors program at UIS, its impact on recruiting, and the positive effect on rankings (such as those recently released by US News and World Report.) UGC will discuss remaining three points in Report next meeting.

- Kahn moved to adjourn; Kline second; unanimous. Meeting adjourned 3:00 p.m.