

**EPC Minutes**  
**February 27, 2023**

Vladimir Atanasov, Jim Barber, Candice Benjes-Small, Annie Blazer, Ben Boone, Magali Campan, Michael Cronin, Larry Evans, Brennan Harris, Oliver Kerscher, Sallie Marchello, Christy Porter, Silvia Tandeciarz, Matt Smith, Cory Springer, Kristin Wustholz

**1. Approval of the Feb. 20 minutes**

Minutes approved.

**2. Discussion of UREG – n/a proposal (change catalog language to support an early-admission program to the Law School) with Vice Dean Silvia Tandeciarz**

- Silvia describes a 2019 proposal for a connection between the Law School and Arts & Sciences.
  - That proposal didn't advance. There is no leeway to count undergraduate courses in the first year of law school curriculum. Courses taught in 1L, 2L, 3L are fixed. This jeopardizes accreditation and standing with the American Bar Association. COVID and several significant changes in administration paused further discussions.
- Silvia describes the current proposal. The Law School proposes a program in which A&S undergraduates who have completed all COLL and major requirements in fewer than 8 semesters fulfill up to 30 credits for graduation with first year law school classes.
  - This wouldn't compromise COLL or major requirements and the Registrar could track this for undergraduates.
  - A pre-law advisor was positive toward this program.
  - Currently, undergraduates may use 9 graduate credits toward the 120 graduation credits.
- Permitting up to 30 credits of Wythe Law School coursework for the UG degree would be an attractive option for some undergrad students.
  - It may attract interested undergraduates who are good candidates for medium tier law school admission or top tier students interested in financial advantages of attending W&M Law. Financial aid would cover 1 year of law school, meaning students would only have 2 law school years to pay.
  - The program may also benefit students from under-represented groups who choose W&M undergraduate.
  - The program may be used as an undergraduate recruiting tool.
- Silvia says the proposal has not advanced to financial logistics yet, however, there are reasons to think the program would not disturb A&S finances. The Dean would negotiate finances.
  - While A&S faculty may be sensitive to revenue lost from A&S and going to the Law School, it's unlikely that A&S would lose any tuition dollars.

- All tuition is university revenue so the program would encourage students here to stay an additional 2 or more years.
- The Law School says this program would be small: only apply to 3 to 5 undergraduate students. Only 100-300 undergraduates are on a track to complete UG in fewer than 8 semesters.
- Additional benefits of this program include:
  - Law can bring diverse and strong students into their applicant pool. W&M undergraduates are very strong applicants, and the Dean of Law prioritizes student diversity.
  - The university thinks the program would enhance recruitment.
  - Undergraduate students from W&M would not need to take the LSAT.

#### Committee questions and feedback:

- Logistical questions: What are the details of the program, its structure, and logistics? When would students apply? Is it part of the initial application? When do they plan for it? Silvia notes that with targeted advising, applicants could apply as sophomores. This would benefit students who come in with a lot of credits, transfer in, or who take winter and summer courses. It could be attractive to those students who are very sure of law.
- Accreditation: Would this affect accreditation due to a double dip from a UG degree to a Law school? Other institutions (e.g., George Mason partners with CNU) do this and we already permit 60 credits from anywhere. In this scenario, 30 credits at W&M would count for W&M. IAE replies that it's not likely to be a problem to use our own credits to cover both, especially using elective rather than required courses. However, need to ensure no triple counting. If they count for UG degree and Law degree, can't count for a third degree, for instance.
- Additional comments and concerns:
  - EPC spends hours parsing the content, objectives, and attributes for individual undergraduate courses. Some members felt it is incompatible to substitute law school courses for part of the liberal arts degree, certainly without seeing the course syllabi. IAE notes that it is fully permissible for any undergraduate degree in any school to award a BA degree with only 25% of credits earned at that institution.
  - Students interested in Law School need careful advising and may benefit from not going straight to a professional program. Who will be responsible for advising these students and administering the program?
  - Members questioned the notion that the program will be appeal to FIGLI or other under-represented groups because they are not the students who are ahead of the game with lots of credits and finishing early.
  - Are these policy and structural changes necessary for just 3-5 students?
- Silvia responds that 3-5 students is the number proposed by the Law School. This could be a path for a small number of students. The implementation path is not quite known yet. To pursue this program (or a pilot), EPC is asked to weigh in on a rule change to allow for 30 credits of law credits to count for the 120 credits.

This program is aligns with vision 2026 (internships/career) and how to we keep W&M competitive. Silvia notes that many schools around the country have such partnerships and if we don't have a program, it discourages other students from coming to W&M. The program could be attractive to Pell Grant recipients, and it would support Vision 2026.

3. Consent calendar

ART - All ART-prefix courses - All ART-prefix courses*	Proficiency	ART
DANC - 211, 212 - Modern II*	Proficiency	ART
DANC - 230 - History of American Vernacular Dance*	Proficiency	ART
INTR - 297 - Applied Learning: Internship Seminar	New course	Delinking
HIST - 212 - Modern Iran since 1800	COLL 300	
RELG - 213 - Introduction to Hinduism	COLL 300	

\*Approved for proficiency, delinking information will need additional review

- Kristin to mark these approved, but noting the delinking is not completed.

4. Other proposals

DANC - 406 - Independent Projects in Dance#	COLL 400
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- Group votes to approve for COLL 400, but not yet for delinking. -

#Delinking information will need additional review

**UREG – n/a.** EPC requests that several aspects of the proposal are addressed before further consideration: 1) program structure/logistics should be included in Curriculog proposal, 2) evidence (data from peer institutions for example) would strengthen the rationale for the program and associated structural changes. For example, how does this help recruiting if we have very few students partaking in it? Have 3+3 programs been shown to diversify the student pool? 3) We would like to see syllabi to explain how the 1L law courses fit into the liberal arts Bachelor’s degree, 4) a cost breakdown or resource impact estimate is requested.