McCausland Undergraduate Committee Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2026

11 AM-12 PM

Petigru 321

Committee Members in Attendance: Dawn Campbell (WGST), Amanda P. Zeigler (BIOL), Judith Kalb (LLC), Rebecca Stern (ENGL), Amy Taylor-Perry (CHEM), and Cuizhen (Susan) Wang (GEOG)

Ex-Officio Members in Attendance: Christy Friend, Karen Thompson

1. The meeting began with a welcome message from the Chair.
2. A call was placed to approve the minutes from the previous Undergraduate Committee Meeting on November 3, 2025. Minutes were approved with no recommended amendments.
3. Selection of a new UGS Committee Chair was discussed. As the chair's term length is only one year, the committee was encouraged to think about who would like to serve in this role for the next academic year.
4. Course scheduling practices, particularly the low enrollment review process, were discussed. Concerns were expressed over variations in class sizes within a unit, variations in class sizes of online vs in-person courses, who determines course enrollment caps, who has the final say in cancelling low enrolled courses, and how can we make class sizes more equitable amongst faculty while still meeting enrollment demands of our students.
    - It was suggested that the committee attempt to prepare a formalized justification process that could be used by the College and departments/units to help justify minimum enrollments in certain courses if there was a pedagogical or equity-based reason to do so.
5. Carolina Core data that reflected prior learning credit in McCAS courses was discussed.
    - The committee all agreed that our students benefit from having a robust core that exposes them to courses that are designed to give them a broad foundation of knowledge and skills that go beyond their major.
    - Core classes help build "soft skills" that can apply towards almost any future career and allow students to become versatile thinkers.

- The committee expressed that it would be a good idea to bring in a few of the Carolina Core Committee members to have a discussion with them at a future meeting.

6. Future directions:
    - The committee reiterated that a formal low enrollment justification process should be established and agreed that this should be a major topic of discussion at our April 2026 meeting.
    - Carolina Core Committee members will be invited to a future meeting to continue discussions on how to keep a robust Core for our students.
7. The meeting adjourned at noon.

Minutes taken by: Amanda P. Zeigler