Undergraduate Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 4, 2017
1:30-3:00 PM, Hornbake 4113

In attendance: Vedat Diker, Bill Kules, Jessica Vitak, Tim Summers, Lindsay Sarin (non-member)
Absent/Excused: Adaire Parker (ex-officio, voting), Brandon Turp (student representative), Brian Butler (ex-officio, non-voting)

I. The committee worked on editing the syllabus for the Capstone in Information Science (INST 490) course. The committee voted on approving the proposal and the syllabus for INST 490 substantially as written during the meeting with possible edits by VD and LS. The course was approved by 4 votes in favor, 0 against, and 2 voting members in absence.

II. BK and JV articulated the following concerns:

a. Teaching undergraduate courses is fundamentally different than teaching graduate courses in terms of time and effort spend for preparation, grading, and helping individual students through one-on-one time. Teaching a three-credit undergraduate course takes much more work and time than a three-credit graduate course. The college should look into this from a teaching workload equity perspective.

b. Grading and tutoring functions are more critical and time-consuming in undergraduate courses than in graduate courses. So, more TA support is needed for undergraduate courses than for graduate courses.

c. We should look into restructuring 100+ seat sections.

d. Mental health issues are more critical when working with undergraduate students than with graduate students. We need to address training the faculty regarding mental health issues on a higher level and in a more standard way.

LS suggested that workload and equity concerns should be brought to the APT committee and/or college administration.