

MINUTES
Undergraduate Policy Committee Meeting
February 25, 2026

Members Present: Dan Mears, Justin Shows, Jonathan Jackson, James Sickinger, Teresa Roach, Rylan Douthett, Enrique Alvarez, Jennifer Atkins, Michael Hanawalt, Greg Harris, Henry Fuelberg, Lydia Hanks, Lisa Munson, Antonia Nemec, Brian Parker, Besiki Stvilia, Xinlin Tang, Lisa Tripp, Yanyun Yang, Xin “Henry” Zhang, DeOnte Brown, Amy Guerette, Nikki Raimondi

I. **Approval of Agenda**

The meeting was called to order, and the agenda was approved.

II. **Approval of Minutes from January 14, 2026**

The minutes from January 14 were approved.

III. **New Business:**

1. **Proposed Request to offer a new Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in Theatre with a major in Stage Management in the College of Fine Arts**

Dr. Shields and Dr. Brock discussed highlights from the proposal. They explained this major will serve the increasing demand for theater management skills and provide a professional degree track for students interested in production and management rather than performance. The program would have a curriculum shared with other BFA students and major-specific coursework. The expected number of students is 6-10 per year. Students will be able to gain experience and apply what they learn in theater productions at Theatre Academy London and the Asolo Repertory Theater in Sarasota. The UPC membership voted, and the degree proposal was **APPROVED**.

2. **Proposed Request to offer a new Fine Arts-Dance Undergraduate Certificate (Dance Accompanying)**

Dr. Shields and Helanius Wilkins discussed how the new certificate program in dance accompaniment would provide training for musicians to work in dance studios and rehearsal spaces. This certificate gives students specific training to do work in classrooms, rehearsals and live performances. The certificate aims to address a critical need for skilled accompanists and enhance opportunities for musicians. Several faculty discussed the certificate’s interdisciplinary nature, emphasizing its benefits for both dance and music fields. The UPC membership voted, and the Undergraduate Certificate was **APPROVED**.

3. **Proposed Request to offer a new Fine Arts-AHAE Combined Pathway (BA Art History & MA Arts Administration)**

Dr. Shields and Jean Hudson discussed how the pathway would allow students to streamline their education and transition into relevant careers more efficiently. Students will learn skills that provide an essential foundation for graduate study in arts administration, where students prepare for leadership roles in cultural organizations, museums, galleries, and community-based arts initiatives. This pathway ensures graduates are prepared not only with advanced content knowledge of art history but also with the professional competencies required to lead, manage, and advocate for arts organizations. The UPC membership voted, and the new Fine Arts-AHAE Combined Pathway (BA Art History & MA Arts Administration) was **APPROVED**.

4. **Proposed Request to offer a new Fine Arts-AHAE Combined Pathway (BA Art History & MS Art Education)**

Dr. Shields and Jean Hudson discussed how the pathway serves students looking for alternative paths and may not want a terminal degree. This pathway combines art history and art education to ensure that students enter the teaching profession with a strong disciplinary identity rooted in art historical study. This pathway will allow students to take undergraduate prerequisites and graduate courses that will be completed during their time as undergraduates. The UPC

membership voted, and the new Fine Arts-AHAE Combined Pathway (BA Art History & MS Arts Education) was **APPROVED**.

5. UPC Voting Procedures

As Chair, Dan is doing some investigating about voting protocols going forward.

6. Update from Undergraduate Studies

No updates.

2025-2026 UPC meeting dates: All meetings will begin at 3:35 pm in 201 Westcott. Remaining meeting dates: March 11, March 25, April 8, and April 22.