

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON CURRICULUM (UCOC)

MINUTES

March 3, 2021

2:00-3:30 pm

****Zoom Meeting****

I. UCOC JANUARY and FEBRUARY 2021 MINUTES

- *Attachments: UCOC January 2021 Minutes*
UCOC February 2021 Minutes

➔ **APPROVED** with minor edits.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Anticipating and Addressing the Issue of Undergraduate Online Instruction (Continued from previous discussions regarding online curriculum)

DISCUSSED Members discussed what designation, if any, should be assigned to courses approved to be offered online, what metric might be used to decide which courses should receive the designation, and how the designation might be viewed both internally and externally. Concern arose over the possibility that courses outwardly designated “online” might be misconstrued to be of lesser value than on-campus versions. It was noted that the designation in question would pose a problem for the many graduate-level engineering courses that are routinely offered via DEN; students can attend in-person or not and the modalities are considered interchangeable. Members agreed that, as the trend toward online instruction continues, evaluating online components is crucial, but designating a course as an online course may be better reserved for the Schedule of Classes rather than the Catalogue. It was suggested that there should be an expectation for the Schedule of Classes – and any posted syllabi – to properly reflect the modality of courses whether offered online, hybrid or on-campus, with the responsibility remaining at the level of the department team lead, chair and/or dean to provide faculty oversight over the department and its offerings.

It was noted that there are no financial aid implications related to whether a course is offered in-person or online, and currently there are no accreditation implications either, though considering how quickly the online landscape is changing, WASC and other accreditors may become interested in overall best practices and policies. It was also noted, however, that there are implications related to international students who are enrolled in only courses categorized as online.

Members acknowledged that the broad spectrum of ways that online and in-person experiences often intertwine makes it difficult to pin down how to categorize courses in terms of modality, noting that the COVID-19 pandemic has led to adaptations that will continue to provide value for students in fundamental ways, despite being all or partially online.

Chair Chi Mak summarized the discussion by suggesting that UCOC should not re-review an existing course solely in terms of modality, and once a new course is approved on the basis of its merit, its delivery can vary between on-campus, hybrid and online modalities, but the modality of a course section should be reflected on the Schedule of Classes, with oversight and decision making reserved for the department. Members agreed but maintained that new course proposals should still account for the intended method(s) of content delivery, the technology needed, and how these points relate to pedagogy and the student's learning experience. Next steps will include drafting specifics of the proposal question(s).

III. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Scheduled Special Topics Report

- *Attachment: February 2021-March 2021 Special Topics*

Members Present

Diane Badame
Matt Bemis (Assoc. Registrar)
Steven Bucher
Megan Chan (Financial Aid)
John DeMartini (Support Staff)
Donna Garcia
Judy Garner
Lawrence Green
Brian Head
Chi Mak (Chair)
Danielle Mihram
Robin Romans
Geoffrey Shiflett

Members Absent

Guests