

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON CURRICULUM (UCOC)

MINUTES

October 2, 2019

2:00-3:30 pm

****ACC 312****

I. UCOC SEPTEMBER 2019 MINUTES

- *Attachment: UCOC September 2019 Minutes*

➔ **APPROVED**, with chair's edits.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Online Components at the Undergraduate Level (Brian Head, AHS Chair)

DISCUSSED MAY 1, 2019 [...] Mak said that the committee should definitely continue the discussion with a goal to provide guidance for developments in the future.

UPDATE SINCE MAY 2019 MEETING Donna Garcia reported increasing interest from campus partners regarding the definitions and criteria for "online" and "hybrid" courses. Garcia has been in touch with Michael Nichol, Associate Vice Provost for Online Education, who may have a stake in UCOC's continued discussion.

DISCUSSED OCTOBER 2, 2019 Chair Chi Mak reminded the committee that during the previous spring, questions arose related to the categorization of online curriculum, especially at the undergraduate level. He asked the committee to consider what the potential implications for current policy may be as this discussion unfolds.

It was noted that an academic unit was expecting a site visit for accreditation review, and that a WASC review was expected, so campus partners have been interested in clarifying the definitions of online education.

It was also noted that former president Nikias issued a memo during his presidency regarding online education at the undergraduate level, and there may be a need to clarify what the intention was then and how the understanding of his vision may have evolved now, particularly whether he was referring to online degree programs, online courses, or both. Currently there are a few courses at the undergraduate level offered online, and a number of 400-level Engineering courses offered optionally in-person or completed through distance learning.

Matt Bemis, Associate Registrar of Degree Progress, said that there is only one online certificate at the undergraduate level, and suggested it would be veritably impossible to offer bachelor's programs online given that there are no online courses that satisfy the writing requirement or the GE requirements, let alone major requirements that are entirely online.

Michael Nichol, inaugural Vice Provost of Online Education, reported that discussions with former Provost Quick and others were largely in favor of residential undergraduate education, but questions had arisen regarding what should be happening during the summer term when undergraduate students are free to pursue additional opportunities. He added that he does not expect a shift toward completely online undergraduate programs in the near future.

Members registered concerns that undergraduate education should be residential in order to foster collaboration and bolster the quality of educational interactions, noting that if summer online experiences were to be added to degree programs, it would follow that these additions must be monitored so as to not dilute the quality of programs that are otherwise on-campus.

Mak returned to the question of the scope of the discussion, and what impact on policy may a result. Members responded that both the content and expectations for all modalities should be considered. Ingrid Steiner, CET Instructional Designer, shared her insights into transforming the learning objectives of a residential course to accommodate and enhance online delivery. She noted that experts in the field report at conferences that student demographics are changing and there are increasing opportunities for alternate forms of learning to accommodate student families, students with jobs and students pursuing multiple degrees. She noted that, in her experience, a contributing factor for success is faculty development to establish proper expectations for the online class and its experience. She said she often coaches faculty on online faculty-student engagement, which usually centers on technology and leveraging technology to foster student engagement. Online environments are facilitated differently than on-campus environments, and faculty who have never taught an online course have the opportunity to develop these skills.

Nichol said he has been investigating the offerings at other institutions and also working to create an inventory of existing online experiences at USC that will help identify additional experiences to explore.

Bemis asked the committee to consider that USC routinely accepts undergraduate courses online in transfer, but there are categories of content that are not allowed to be transferred in when online, such as the foreign language requirement. Members noted that while this may be true, it's not clear if a central policy for undergraduate online education has been thoughtfully considered and established, and that it might be in UCOC's interest to have a voice in the processes of establishing best practices that guide creation of online, blended and "other" courses.

Mak requested more information on the categories of online coursework that are not allowable in transfer, and recommended that the committee contemplate primary discussion points for exploration at future meetings.

B. Multiple Undergraduate Degrees, Continued Discussion from Previous Years (Brian Head, AHS Chair and Geoff Shiflett, SES Chair)

DISCUSSED MAY 1, 2019 [...] Mak clarified that he did not intend to imply that Dornsife should necessarily maintain exclusivity, but rather that Dornsife leaders will be well suited to help inform the discussion based on their position. Members agreed and that benchmarks and peer institutions should be investigated.

DEFERRED

C. International Partnership/Joint Programs Checklist (UCOC/OSP, Provost's Office, Registrar's Office, Financial Aid Office)

POSTPONED FEBRUARY 6, 2019 until the Globalization Working Group has met. Megan Chan will keep UCOC updated.

DEFERRED

III. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Scheduled Special Topics Report

- *Attachment: September 2019-October 2019 Special Topics*

Members Present

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

Members Absent

Megan Chan (Financial Aid)

Guests

Michael Nichol
Ingrid Steiner