

# UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON CURRICULUM (UCOC)

## MINUTES

*October 3, 2006*

*2:00-4:00*

*ACC 312*

### I. MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER UCOC MEETING

- **APPROVED**

### II. SEPTEMBER PANEL AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. ARTS AND HUMANITIES – *no items for review*
- B. HEALTH PROFESSIONS – *no items for review*
- C. OVERSEAS STUDIES -- **ACCEPTED**
- D. SCIENCE, MATH AND ENGINEERING – *no items for review*
- E. SOCIAL SCIENCE ACCEPTED -- **ACCEPTED**
- F. DIVERSITY REQUIREMENT COMMITTEE -- *no items for review*

### III. INFORMATION ITEMS

- A. Update to Curriculum Handbook re: academic rigor  
*Attachment:*  
*Revisions to handbook*

- Even though approval is not required for information items, UCOC members indicated enthusiastic endorsement of the revisions made by Elizabeth Garrett, Tom Cummings and Ken Servis.

- B. COLLEGE OF LETTERS, ARTS AND SCIENCES: GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM  
Req. by Peter Starr

Add the “g” suffix to the following two courses:

Category II: Global Cultures and Traditions

\*EALC 145, INTRODUCTION TO CHINESE CIVILIZATION, ART AND LITERATURE (4)

\*\*HIST 271 EARLY NATIVE AMERICAN STORIES (4)

\*EALC 145 is an existing course with a different course title; the request to revise the course is forthcoming.

\*\*HIST 271 is on the memo adding the ‘g’ designation with a title that differs from the one on the form and this document. The title on the form and this document is the correct one.

#### IV. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

- **APPROVED.**

#### V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Proposed changes to progressive degree program

*Circulated to UCOC members in advance of the meeting were: (1) Memo to Tom Cummings from Elizabeth Garrett concerning proposed revisions to the progressive degree program; (2) Document containing proposed revisions to program; and (3) Spreadsheet with information about students accepted into program up to the present.*

- **DISCUSSION:** As currently devised, the minimum 3.5 GPA prevents some interested and otherwise qualified undergraduates from considering this program as a viable option. The progressive degree program is designed such that each student has to satisfy the course and GPA requirements for each degree involved; students must earn at least a 3.0 in their graduate courses. Individual schools have the option of maintaining the 3.5 minimum even if the guidelines are changed. The other change is to reinforce the capstone experience in master's programs. The faculty in the Engineering school are concerned about the quality of students in their master's programs. It was noted that students in rigorous undergraduate programs tend to do very well when they get into the 400-level and graduate level courses. The undergraduate degree is awarded as soon as the degree is earned, and the student status is changed automatically from undergrad to graduate after 8 semesters. There is an interest in minimizing the negative impact on the student's financial aid package. The provost is working to establish funding for progressive degree students at the master's level.
- **APPROVED,** changes to guidelines for the progressive degree program such that the applicant is expected to have at least a 3.0 GPA at the time of application, and schools are strongly encouraged to add a 'capstone' course or experience to their progressive degree programs.
- **NOT ON THE AGENDA, BUT DISCUSSED:**  
Gene Bickers raised an issue concerning community-based learning. Those who organize these experiences are asking if the schedule of classes could somehow identify classes that have a service-learning component. The idea of adding a suffix to the affected courses was considered and discarded because one section of a course might have a service learning component and another one might not, depending on who is teaching it. A link on the web might suffice, and so might the new and improved schedule of classes, which is close to being ready to launch. Gene Bickers agreed to send Ken Servis a list of the classes in question to see how the Publications office might accommodate this request.

Peter Beerel indicated that the School of Engineering is interested in publicizing courses that include some form of innovation.

**Members present**

Ron Alkana  
Peter Beereel  
Nelson Eugene Bickers (ex-officio)  
Hans Bozler  
Thomas Cummings (chair)  
Frances M. Fitzgerald (support staff)  
Alice Gambrell (Writing Committee)  
Elizabeth Garrett (ex-officio)  
Thomas Hollihan  
Sally Handmaker (undergraduate student)  
Michalle Mor-Barak  
Jean Morrison (ex-officio)  
Giulio Ongaro  
Katherine Searing (graduate student)  
Terry Seip  
Kenneth L. Servis (ex-officio)

**Members absent**

Judith Garner  
Thomas Habinek  
Norman Hollyn  
Hilary Schor (General Education)  
Jennifer Wolch (ex-officio)

**Guests**

Richard Fliegel (for Hilary Schor)  
Julena Lind