

Agenda

Course Descriptions

Herb Chereck presented a brief overview of the Undergraduate Council's analysis of Group-Satisfying Courses in 2003-2004. One recommendation that emerged and was approved by the University Senate was the provision of more informative descriptions for these courses. The idea is to post those on-line, accessible from the class schedule (HO #1). Students and academic advisors would thus have ready access to the information necessary for making informed course selections. To date, descriptions for only 60%-70% of the ~500 Group-Satisfying Courses have been submitted to the Registrar's Office. Members of the Council were asked to encourage their colleagues to submit descriptions. Herb suggested that descriptions be coordinated through one person in each department so there would be an inherent coherence and consistency within programs.

Karen Sprague presented slides depicting samples of course descriptions currently on line at the University, course descriptions posted on-line at Duke University, and samples of how course descriptions at UO could be enhanced with graphics that would attract the interest of prospective and current students (HO #2).

Karen and Herb were directed to work with the Library and Media Services to design and develop a format for the course descriptions to be placed on-line for public access.

Grade- Inflation Report

Mark Thoma presented the results of his study of grade-inflation at the University. Members of the Council raised questions about some confusing aspects of the statistical data and some of the conclusions presented in the text. Mark was asked to write an "Executive Statement" for the report. Council members suggested that the submission to the University Senate be restricted to conclusions that follow directly from the most reliable data.