

UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING

October 7, 2008

Johnson Hall Conference Room

Present:

Andrew Bonamici, Trudy Cameron, Amy Goeser Kolb, Dave Hubin, Sean Jin, Jennifer Joslin, Anne Laskaya, Andrew Leavitt, Karen McLaughlin, Ian McNeely, Ron Severson, Karen Sprague, Arkady Vaintrob, Laura Vandenburg, Morgan Williamson, Paul Engelking, Sue Eveland

Absent:

Lisa Feldhusen, Dean Livelybrooks, Caleb Owen, Jim Imamura

Guests:

Ernesto Martinez, Assistant Professor, Women's and Gender Studies

Elizabeth Reis, Associate Professor, Women's and Gender Studies

The meeting was convened by Karen Sprague in light of the fact that a new Chair has not been yet elected by the Undergraduate Council. Members of the Council introduced themselves to the group. Karen invited Council members to submit nominations for the Chair position over the next two weeks. These will be presented and voted upon at the Council's next meeting on October 21, 2008.

Minutes:

Minutes from the previous meetings of May 22 and June 5, 2008 had been distributed to Council members prior to the meeting for review. The floor was opened for any comment or discussion. None was forthcoming.

The motion was made to accept the minutes from the May 22, 2008 and June 5, 2008 meetings.

Moved: Anne Laskaya

Seconded: Karen McLaughlin

The motion to accept the minutes passed unanimously.

WGS Proposal for a Minor in Queer and Sexuality Studies:

Karen invited Elizabeth Reis and Ernesto Martinez to present the proposal from the Queer Studies Committee in CAS to institute a Minor program Queer and Sexuality Studies.

([Memorandum Regarding Proposal for a Minor in Queer and Sexuality Studies](#), [Synopsis of a Proposal Leading to the Minor in Queer Studies](#), and [Proposal for the Initiation of a New Instructional Program Leading to the Minor in Queer Studies](#))

Lizzie presented the history of the development of the proposal and its progress through the various review committees, including the initial review in the Provost's Office, the CAS Curriculum Committee, and now, the Undergraduate Council. It had been hoped that the new Minor could be effective in Fall 2008, but Paul Engelking noted that it still had to be submitted for inclusion in the Curriculum Report, which would then forwarded to the University Senate for

final approval. It was still possible to complete the process in time for the program to be in the Fall 2008 Curriculum Report, The deadline for putting the proposal in the report is early November.

Lizzie related that the proposal has been enthusiastically received by Provost Linda Brady and by the CAS Curriculum Committee. Monies have already been given to the Women's and Gender Studies Program to support the Queer and Sexuality Studies minor by the Provost and by the Vice President of Research and Graduate Studies.

Lizzie and Ernesto engaged in discussion with Council members, addressing the following questions:

Why is the program called "Queer and Sexuality Studies" rather than simply using the general title "Sexuality Studies"? The name arose from the desire of students to see recognition of the specific groups of people, combined with an appreciation of the educational value of breadth. Ernesto pointed out that naming the program gave students a particular investment in the success of the program. Lizzie added that since interests and perspectives change over time, the Minor might be renamed in the future.

Should a biological (genetic) perspective on queerness and sexuality be included in coursework for this Minor? Such courses count toward the Minor, but they have not been identified yet.. Money is needed fro release time to find appropriate courses.

Is WGS comfortable with students being able to earn the Minor by taking only one of their courses through WGS? The response was "yes", and it was noted that the WGS Steering Committee can monitor the Minor, and can modify it if educationally unsound course-taking patterns are observed.

WGS was urged to apply for a permanent course number for the required WGS course which is currently designated as a 199 course.

Does the budget include funds for administrative support for the Minor? Yes; a clerical position that is currently a 0.75 FTE will become 1.0 FTE to support the Minor.

The Council commended WGS for incorporating an element of assessment in its proposal for the Minor. Ernesto and Lizzie noted that the program emphasizes the academic quality of the internships that are part of the WGS major. The Council outlined the process for the proposal to follow subsequent to the Council's review, i.e., the Council will approve or disapprove the proposal and then submit its recommendations to the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies. The Vice Provost will then write a separate recommendation and forward everything to the Provost. The important matter which the WGS Proposal Committee needs to tend to as soon as possible is the re-numbering of the required WGS course for the Minor and presenting the proposal in time for inclusion in the Curriculum Report by November. Lizzie and Ernesto thanked the Council for engaging in a substantive discussion of the merits of the proposed Minor program. After they left the meeting, Council members continued discussing some points of the proposal which they felt needed more clarification:

WGS should lay out clearly in the proposal that a WGS major cannot minor in the Queer and Sexuality Studies program because of too much course overlap. This concern will be pointed out when they submit their revised proposal.

If the deadline of getting the proposal into the Fall Curriculum Report is met in November, then students could declare for the Minor in Winter or Spring 2009, prior to the graduation dates.

The question was raised as to what monitoring mechanism for interdisciplinary programs existed. Interdisciplinary programs as such are not monitored, but the courses in interdisciplinary programs are reviewed within their home department reviews. A vote on the proposal for the minor in Queer and Sexuality Studies was called.

The motion was made that the Undergraduate Council endorse the proposal to institute the Minor in Queer and Sexuality Studies

Moved: Anne Laskaya

Seconded: Ron Severson

The motion passed unanimously. (See: [Minor in Queer and Sexuality Studies](#))

Recommendations Related to the UO Multicultural Requirement

For the benefit of new members to the Council, Karen recapped the work of the Council during the previous two years on the review and analysis of the Multicultural requirement and Multicultural courses. She distributed a document which summarized the goals of the Council's work on the Multicultural requirement, the results of the Council's review, and proposed recommendations to forward to the University Senate in conjunction with recommendations from the Committee on Courses. (See: [Recommendations Related to the UO Multicultural Requirement](#)) Some points which still need clarification from the Undergraduate Council are a recommendation as to who should be responsible for granting the Multicultural designation, the Committee on Courses or the Inter College General Education Requirements Committee? Also, the COC needs guidance from the Undergraduate Council as to how, or if, courses in the natural sciences can qualify for a Multicultural designation, and if so, how? And finally, there needs to be a recommendation from the Undergraduate Council on the retention of materials by instructors for their courses which qualify for the designation of "Multicultural course."

Council members also discussed the parameters of the Multicultural Requirement pertaining to American cultures: what are the boundaries for American Cultures (literally)? Does American Culture stop at U.S. Borders? In many cases, no. Members concluded that for the time being, it would do well to retain the definition of American Cultures as stated in the current Multicultural Requirement in the course catalog, but to provide guidance to faculty and curriculum committees on the interpretation of cultural boundaries.

Karen and Paul Engelking will work on incorporating such guidance into the draft recommendations. The Council will continue the discussion at its next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next UGC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 21, 2008, 11:00am at Johnson Hall Conference Room.