

UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING
October 21, 2008
Johnson Hall Conference Room

Present:

Andrew Bonamici, Sue Eveland, Amy Goeser Kolb, Dave Hubin, Jennifer Joslin, Dean Livelybrooks, Karen McLaughlin, Ian McNeely, Ron Severson, Josh Snodgrass, Karen Sprague, Arkady Vaintrob, Laura Vandenberg, Morgan Williamson, Trudy Cameron, and Paul Engelking

Absent:

Lisa Feldhusen, Sean Jin, Anne Laskaya, Andrew Leavitt, and Jim Imamura

Minutes:

After reviewing the minutes, members noted corrections to be made, principally in spelling and attendance.

The motion was made to accept the minutes, with noted corrections, from the October 7, 2008 meeting.

Moved: Ian McNeely

Seconded: Ron Severson

The motion to accept the minutes passed unanimously.

Introductions:

New member, Josh Snodgrass, CAS at-large representative from the Anthropology Department, was introduced to the Council members, who in turn, introduced themselves.

Agenda

As a Convener, Karen Sprague introduced the agenda to the Council.

Proposed name change for Teacher Education

The College of Education is requesting approval for a name change for the department of *Teacher Education* to *Education Studies*. The College of Education cites several reasons for the request. The new name “*Department of Education Studies*” would:

- more accurately reflect the interdisciplinary and foundational nature of faculty expertise in the program;
- more inclusively reflect the range of degree programs in the department;
- mark the almost total transformation of curriculum and degree programs undertaken by the department;
- enhance the marketability of their students; and,
- enhance their ability to recruit outstanding faculty.

Discussion

The proposed name change for the department has been submitted to the Committee on Courses. Generally, the COC has encouraged the College of Education to pursue establishing “Education Studies” as an overall umbrella for their teacher education programs. The College of Education looks at Education Studies as training more broadly for more than just a teaching career.

Council members were concerned that the name might fail to attract people interested in teacher education, and that there might be some confusion between the “Department of Education Studies” and courses already offered under the subject code of “Educational Studies.” They felt more clarification was needed from the College of Education.

Questions on the departmental name change and its potential impact on courses will be composed and sent to the Council members for review. Then they will be submitted to the College of Education for response.

Grade Inflation Report

A packet of background materials pertaining to the Undergraduate Council’s Report on Grade Inflation (2006) was distributed to Council members. They were asked to review the materials and be prepared to discuss the report at the next meeting. The Council will work on making recommendations based upon the report and campus responses to the report. ([UGC Grade Inflation Analysis](#), [Summary of UGC Grade Inflation Discussion](#), [Grade Inflation Report](#), [Examples of Responses to Grade Inflation](#), [External efforts to curb grade inflation](#), [Princeton Weekly Review Article](#), and [UO Responses to Grade Inflation Report](#))

Multicultural Requirement Recommendations

(See: [Recommendations Related to the UO Multicultural Requirement](#))

Discussion resumed on the Multicultural Requirement recommendations to be submitted by the Undergraduate Council to the Senate. A summary of the proposed recommendations was reviewed by the Council:

Purpose statement: This addendum to the statement already in the course catalog was composed by the Undergraduate Council and submitted to the Committee on Courses in Spring 2008. The COC included the addendum in its Spring report to the Senate and the Purpose Statement addendum is published in the UO Course Catalog.

Improved descriptions of Multicultural courses: Clearly showing the relation of a course to the Multicultural requirement is essential in descriptions for courses designated as satisfying the requirement. Although it is possible for a description to “drift” from the course prefix and number to which it pertains, it is important to make a start with improving course descriptions, even if the descriptions are relatively generic. It was noted that the improvement in course descriptions for the Multicultural requirement is no different than the changes in description required for Group-Satisfying courses and this should be noted in the recommendation.

Use of Topics Courses to satisfy the Multicultural Requirement: Council members agreed that this recommendation should stand as written in the draft proposal.

Distribution of Multicultural Courses: The Council encourages the creation of additional 100 and 200 -level courses. However, 400-level courses should not be excluded from Multicultural status.

The Council also recognizes the relatively narrow range of courses in the American Cultures category of the Multicultural requirement. [The following paragraph was added to expand upon this:] “While American Cultures courses focus on race and ethnicity in the U.S., the current geographic boundaries of the United States often cut across the current and historic ranges of the cultures being studied. In some cases now, the predominant, or perhaps the only, record or materials exist across U.S. borders proper. For example, historical, or even current, ranges of many Native American cultural and language groups are not circumscribed by U.S. borders. Much of the Chicano or Latino experience in the U.S. is informed by past and present influences that transcend national borders. Inclusion of relevant historic and cultural material from outside the current U.S. boundaries may considerably enhance these courses by providing otherwise missing cultural background. For this reason, courses focusing on American Cultures in the U.S. should be allowed to include material and resources from outside of the U.S. territory, if this material does not blur this focus, or lead to aberrations of the original goals of this category, as originally stated.”

A final draft of the full recommendation statement, with endorsement from the Committee on Courses, will be distributed to Council members before it is submitted to the Senate for consideration.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next UGC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 4, 2008, 11:00am at Johnson Hall Conference Room.