

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE
January 28, 2008

Extracts

8. The Report of the Scholastic Standards Committee was presented by Senator Moiseff.

(See Attachment #28)

Senator Moiseff presented a motion to endorse revising the procedures for reviewing and administering INTD courses in accordance with the guidelines detailed in Attachment #28.

Senator Schultz inquired as to how closely the consultations have been between the Senate Scholastic Standards Committee and the CLAS Curricula & Courses Committee. Senator Moiseff described the processes used and discussions held. Senator Clausen commented that characterizing University Interdisciplinary Courses Committee (UICC) as a gatekeeper is perhaps a misnomer. He inquired about the flow of considerations for courses under consideration and stated that he believes that the decision concerning whether a course is to be INTD or UNIV should result from a request by the proposing entity. Senator Moiseff clarified the intent of the Scholastic Standards Committee regarding the role of the UICC.

The motion to endorse carried.

ATTACHMENT #28

Senate Scholastic Standards Committee

University Senate ~ January 28, 2008

Motion: To endorse revising the procedures for reviewing and administering INTD courses in accordance with the guidelines detailed below.

Background

In May, 2006 the Senate endorsed Scholastic Standards Committee's recommendations to restructure the approval process for INTD courses. At that time we recommended establishing an INTD Curriculum and Courses Committee to review INTD courses. The Provost acted on our recommendation and constituted the INTD Curricula and Courses Committee under the direction of M. Lamb (Director of the Individualized & Interdisciplinary Studies Program) and Chaired by David Moss (Neag School of Education). The diligent work of the INTD C&CC revealed problems with the INTD review process that we originally recommended. With feedback from the INTD C&CC, the Director of the Individualized & Interdisciplinary Studies Program [IISP], School/College C&CCs, and the Senate C&CC, we have developed new recommendations for the review of INTD courses.

These new recommendations are based on the recognition that courses currently designated as INTD fall into two basic categories:

- 1- courses that are affiliated with and 'owned' by programs or departments within one or more School/College;
- 2- courses that are not affiliated with Schools/Colleges, but are associated with non school/college based programs such as student affairs, or international affairs divisions of the University.

Recommendations for restructuring the INTD course approval process.

1. We recommend the recategorization of INTD as it is currently used into

- A) INTD: Interdepartmental courses where course ‘ownership’ resides in programs or departments based in one or more Schools/Colleges.
- B) UNIV (or other appropriate designation; we will use UNIV in this document for convenience): Courses ‘owned’ by programs that are not based in Schools/Colleges (e.g., Student Affairs).

2. We recommend establishing of a University Interdisciplinary Courses Committee (UICC) to replace the current INTD Curricula and Courses Committee.

A) Makeup of UICC

- i) Chair – faculty member appointed by Provost (We recommend that the Provost consult the Senate for their recommendation.)
- ii) Faculty representative from each School/College appointed by Provost. The appointment should be made in consultation with School/College Deans. Preferably, the appointee would be a member of the School/College C&CC ensuring that these committees are kept aware of the courses being reviewed by the UICC. We suggest that an alternate also be appointed for each representative.
- iii) *ex officio*, non-voting administrator(s) (including professional staff member(s) with responsibility for INTD/UNIV administration).

B) The UICC would serve as a gatekeeper for the INTD and UNIV designations. Any course that wants to be listed as INTD or UNIV, regardless of the number of participating departments or schools/colleges, would be reviewed by the UICC.

- i) the UICC would review course proposals for appropriateness for either the INTD or UNIV designation and would recommend changes in designation where appropriate.
- ii) the UICC would also serve a developmental role to identify synergies supporting one or the other category.
- iii) the administrator of the UICC would facilitate the operation of the committee and would coordinate the process of forwarding proposals through the appropriate channels to obtain the necessary approvals.

3. We recommend the following approval process for University Interdisciplinary Courses (INTD and UNIV).

A) That courses be required to receive departmental approval (from all departments involved or sponsoring the course proposal) or program approval (from program advisory boards or curriculum committees) before they being reviewed by UICC.

B) Courses that the UICC have approved for INTD designation would be forwarded to the C&CCs of participating Schools/Colleges for review and approval.

C) Courses that the UICC have approved for UNIV designation would be forwarded to Senate C&CC for review and approval.

D) INTD or UNIV courses requiring additional Senate action will be directed to Senate C&CC for Gen Ed, S/U, 1000s, and any other Senate oversight that might be required.

4. We recommend that all existing INTD courses be reviewed by UICC over a 3-year period to place them into the appropriate category (INTD or UNIV) and for approval by the appropriate process when changes are made to the existing courses. To avoid confusion, we recommend delaying the use of the new designations until all existing courses have been reviewed; however, catalog listings could include a descriptor of the schools responsible for the courses. Illustrative examples of catalog listings during the 3-year review period. At the end of this period the courses will be listed as UNIV or INTD.

INTD1660W. Ports of Passage

(166W) Second semester. Three credits. Prerequisite: ENGL 1010 or 1011 or 3800.

A selection of readings concerning ports around the world. Interdisciplinary readings will 07/08 - A - 152

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explore the cultural and historical significance of the port as a setting of philosophical and commercial exchange. Interdepartmental course (CLAS). CA 4-INT.

INTD 1700. Honors Core: Walden, A History

(170) Either semester. Three credits. Open only to freshman and sophomore students in the Honors program.

Gross, Pritchard, Thorson

Explores the interplay of nature, history, and aesthetics in the making of Thoreau's Walden (1854).

Topics include the geological development of the Walden ecosystem; the economic reshaping of the Walden environment in the mid-19th century; the social critique, scientific ideas, and aesthetic notions informing Thoreau's work; and the impact of Walden on Americans' views of themselves and their sense of place. Applies interdisciplinary perspectives from art, geology, literature, and social and intellectual history. Interdepartmental course (CLAS & SoFA). CA 1.

[Note: INTD 1700 is in the process of delisting; it will be replaced by AMST 1XXX Honors Core: American Landscapes]

INTD 1800. FYE University Learning Skills

(180) Either semester. One credit. One class period.

Open to freshman and sophomore students only.

A component of the First Year Experience (FYE) program, this course is intended to acquaint students with the university and expand their learning experiences in order for them to adjust to the new expectations they will face. The course involves assignments that will provide opportunities for students to enhance their academic and interpersonal skills. University course.

Implementation concerns

Prior to implementing these recommendations we urge that the following details be considered.

1) The administrative entity responsible for grade appeals, catalog review, and updates needs to be identified for INTD and UNIV courses. (Currently, IISP acts as the responsible administrative entity.)

2) The UICC should be supported by a professional staff person. (Currently, INTD administrative support is provided by the Director, Dr. Margaret Lamb, and the IISP/GEOC administrator, Anabel Perez.)

3) The workload of the faculty chairperson should be evaluated to determine whether he/she should receive additional compensation.

4) The Provost should work with the SEC and the Senate C&CC to establish the authority for the Senate to review all UNIV courses and to work out the practical details of having Senate C&CC review these courses. (Currently, Senate C&CC has jurisdiction to review 1000-level UNIV courses, courses open to sophomores, S/U courses, W and Q courses, and other general education courses.)