

## MINUTES

**Meeting Date:** Thursday, December 5, 2013

**Time:** 1:00pm

**Place:** BUSN 321

*Voting Members and Alternates in attendance:* Hedley Freake (Chair), Eric Donkor (SOE), Tom Long (SON), Gary Kazmer (CANR), Olga Vinogradova (SOP), Larry Gramling (SOB), Laura Burton (Neag), David Stern (SFA), Michael Bradford (SFA)

*Ex Officio Members in attendance:* Marianne Buck, Eric Schultz, Maria Martinez, David Ouimette, Jaclyn Chancey

*Administrators and Guests:* Karen Piantek, Stanton Wolfe, Edward Kammerer, Fleurette King, Kristopher Perry

*Regrets:* Shannon Weaver, Daniel Doerr

Meeting called to order at 1:01pm.

### 1. Welcome

### 2. Approval of minutes from the October 24, 2013 meeting (T. Long, E. Donkor)

The minutes of the October 24, 2013 meeting were accepted as submitted.

### 3. New Business

Stanton Wolfe was introduced and asked to give an overview of the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) with regards to the two courses he is putting forward. He noted that the courses are intended to be core components of their new program. The courses were created with help from HDFS and under the guidance of the Disabilities Studies Advisory Committee, which includes faculty representatives from Engineering, Psychology, Sociology, and Nursing among others.

#### **3.1 INTD 3995 Special Topics: The Disability Spectrum – Characteristics, Systems, Practices, and Impact**

#### **3.2 INTD 3995 Special Topics: Global Perspectives on Disabilities**

*Discussion:*

- E. Schultz had concerns about the term “international disabilities” in the second course description and suggested rewording to avoid misunderstanding; S. Wolfe agreed the changes would be fine.
- Stakeholders in the project are HRTS and HDFS, who will conduct ongoing review and supply faculty as guest lecturers; other departments are mainly advisory.
- The committee asked what kinds of students are intended to take this course and if any discussions of pre-requisites had taken place. Proposers indicated that they wanted the courses to be “open to everybody and anybody”; they are seen as filling a gap on campus. A particular cohort of students might be those who want to go into Psych and may not have considered that they might work with people with disabilities. One course originally had a pre-req, but this was removed for various reasons, but especially since the courses are to be offered in Fall 2014.

- L. Gramling asked what knowledge or preparation the proposers hoped students might have going in. It was indicated that an understanding of basic sociology, qualitative research and other social science principles was preferred, but just a base-line knowledge would suffice.
- M. Buck pointed out that INTD 3995 courses are “by instructor consent” by nature, so edits were made to the consent wording in the course description.
- L. Gramling asked if there was a downside to offering the courses under the Public Health designation. S. Wolfe answered that concerns about certain limitations inherent in the designation would make PUBH inappropriate. The courses were really intended for a stand-alone discipline, and the UCEDD is working to put in place its own designation.
- The courses will move on to CLAS C&C upon approval from UICC.

**Motion to approve the course by T. Long. Motion seconded by D. Stern.**

**The motion was approved unanimously.**

### **3.3 UNIV 3995 Special Topics: Legal Analysis and Writing**

### **3.4 UNIV 3995 Special Topics: Basics of Trial Advocacy**

Edward Kammerer was introduced and asked to give an overview of the two courses he is putting forward. He discussed his position as the new Pre-Law advisor at UConn and his development of Moot Court and Mock Trial competition teams; he explained how the courses related to these two initiatives; both courses focus on topics and skills such as rhetoric, argumentation, and public speaking.

*Discussion:*

- D. Stern asked for clarification that there is no pre-law major at UConn. E. Kammerer indicated that most schools don't have a pre-law major but rely on programs similar to UConn's.
- E. Donkor asked about absence of a final exam in one of the classes, which raised the question as to whether a final exam is required. The ultimate answer was no, it was not required. The course will focus more on writing projects but does include an exam in the middle.
- It was confirmed that the courses can be taken concurrently.
- T. Long expressed a concern about the lack of detail/specifics regarding course assignments and due dates; E. Kammerer indicated that assignments have not yet been set because course structure is not yet set; ideally the course will meet twice a week, so the pattern will be that of lecture then assignment due.
- H. Freake suggested that the syllabus be reviewed by experienced faculty to catch any issues.
- The courses have already been reviewed by the Standing Honors Board and have the support of Jennifer Lease Butts

**Motion to approve the course by T. Long. Motion seconded by O. Vinogradova.**

**The motion was approved unanimously.**

### **3.5 UNIV 3985 Special Topics: Gender, Sexuality and Community (Changed to 3995)**

Fluerette King was introduced and asked to give an overview of the basics of the course.

*Discussion:*

- T. Long spoke in favor of the course and F. King's diligence in seeking feedback and guidance from faculty.
- It was clarified that the Rainbow Center is now part of Student Affairs; the course has been reviewed by the Rainbow Center faculty board, but not by the main Student Affairs faculty board

- It was noticed that the course uses the S/U grading Special Topics number but that a regular letter grading scale was included with the proposal. F. King clarified that the course was intended to be letter graded, so the course number is an error; it will be changed administratively to UNIV 3995.

**Motion to approve the course as UNIV 3995 by T. Long. Motion seconded by L. Burton.**

**The motion was approved unanimously.**

### **3.6 UNIV 1995 Special Topics: East Meets West in Southern China**

Hedley Freake deferred chairmanship of the meeting to E. Donkor during the discussion of this course. He indicated that there was some question about whether the course was more appropriate as a special topics course or a study abroad course, but the former seemed more appropriate because it originates from UConn rather than a foreign institution. It was noted that students will also take a 1-credit pre-course through Global House before going.

*Discussion:*

- M. Bradford expressed disappointment that, in general, universities have not yet figured out how to assess and quantify “experience” academically. L. Gramling concurred, noting that “the learning takes place the entire 21 days” of the course, not just the hours indicated on the syllabus.
- The committee inquired as to what student majors are represented in Global house. H. Freake confirmed that it is a “tapestry,” but Biology is a well-represented major. He also indicated that GH is about 50% US students and 50% international students. Some of the latter are interested in the course and trip.
- L. Gramling inquired about the use of “May 2014” versus “Summer 2014” as the offering term.

**Motion to approve the course by D. Stern. Motion seconded by O. Vinogradova.**

**The motion was approved unanimously.**

*Note*

E. Donkor reluctantly acknowledged the end of his “15-minutes of fame” and relinquished chairmanship of the committee back to H. Freake. Some post-vote discussion occurred regarding how the UICC might handle future courses of this nature. For example, the committee was uncertain if subsequent manifestations of this course that visited different countries would be considered the same course or a different one for the purposed of determining three offerings of a particular Special Topics course.

### **3.7 Merging the New Course and Special Topics requests forms for INTD/UNIV**

*Discussion:*

H. Freake asked the committee if they noticed that the six Special Topics courses they just considered were submitted on different forms. He asked the committee if they felt that two forms (separate Special Topics and Add Course forms) were needed or if the two could be consolidated. There was general assent that the forms could be consolidated, so K. Piantek will draft a merged form for the UICC’s consideration. There was some discussion of how the new CAR system will affect the issue.

## **4. Old Business**

### **4.1. UICC Report on Study Abroad Accreditations**

The UICC was provided with an Excel spread sheet of study abroad courses approved by the UICC Chair throughout the term. K. Piantek and H. Freake explained their procedure for

reviewing courses and how incoming requests are handled. They explained some of the common issues encountered (different foreign accrediting systems, courses that clearly appear departmental but are declined by particular departments, and courses that in no way resemble anything offered at UConn, e.g. London College of Fashion courses). H. Freake again asked the committee if they felt these courses should be accredited as UNIVs instead of INTDs because UICC's accreditation power comes from the Provost's Office rather than a school or college. The committee expressed the general opinion that courses should be accredited INTD or UNIV based on their content and level of interdisciplinarity.

**4.2. UICC Policy Manual – Revisions and Additions**

Review of the UICC Policy Manual was deferred until the next meeting

Adjourned at 2:31pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Piantek  
IISP Administrator