

Report to Senate: University Interdisciplinary Courses Committee

April 27, 2015

Hedley Freake, Chair

The University Interdisciplinary Courses Committee (UICC) consists of voting members and alternates representing the 8 undergraduate schools and colleges and additional regional campus representatives. In addition, ex-officio, non-voting members represent academic and student affairs units that offer relevant courses, as well as other stakeholders. The UICC oversees the interdepartmental and interdisciplinary and/or program-based, non-departmental curriculum and advises faculty members and staff on these course proposals. In January 2014, its mission was extended to oversee the Military Science (MISI) and Air Force (AIRF) courses, administered by the Office of Veterans Affairs and Military Programs. The UICC reports to the Provost's Office, and administrative support for the committee and routine matters related to INTD and UNIV courses is provided by a Program Assistant shared with other curricular committees and the Individualized & Interdisciplinary Studies Program.

The committee met 5 times in the current academic year and this report summarizes its activities.

Clarification and documentation of UICC policies

The principles for separation of the existing INTD curriculum into INTD and UNIV sections developed by the committee were approved by the Senate in 2012 (Senate meeting 2/27/12). The INTD designation is used for courses offered by more than one department from within the schools and colleges, whereas UNIV is used for those courses that originate from units that report to the Provost outside of the schools and colleges. The latter require careful oversight since they arise outside of the normal departmental and school/college curricula and courses review structures. The mechanisms developed for oversight for UNIV courses were built on the principle of faculty governance of the curriculum and attempt to replicate those used within the schools and colleges. The curriculum now comprises 17 INTD and 29 UNIV permanent courses, including special topics and independent study offerings.

The UICC has developed a policy guide to record their decisions on matters of protocol and a website <http://uicc.uconn.edu/> to better communicate UICC activities to the University community and to serve as a source of forms and instructions for those wishing to conduct business with it. As part of its mandate to oversee the curriculum, the UICC is in the final stages of developing a policy to govern the periodic review of UNIV courses. The units outside of the schools and colleges that offer UNIV courses are required to have faculty committees to provide oversight of their curriculum and this policy will specify the course reports expected from them.

New courses

The UICC approved the following new courses:

- UNIV 2993 International Study (see Education Abroad section for reference)
- UNIV 1983 International Study (see Education Abroad section for reference)
- UNIV 2983 International Study (see Education Abroad section for reference)
- UNIV 2100 The McNair Scholar (previously a Special Topics offering)
- INTD 3XXX Introduction to Correctional Health
- INTD 4XXX Translating Evidence: Applied Correctional Research

The UICC approved revisions to the following course:

- UNIV 1840 Learning Community Service-Learning

The UICC approved the following Special Topics courses for the 2014-15 Academic Year:

- UNIV 1985 Special Topics Seminar: Holster Research Proposal Development
- UNIV 1995 Special Topics: East Meets West in Southern China
- INTD 3995 Special Topics: Disability Law, Policy, Ethics, and Advocacy
- UNIV 1995 Special Topics: Next Generation STEM Skills

Education Abroad

The UICC continues to receive requests from students to accredit courses taken while studying abroad. To date this academic year, the UICC has received requests from 27 students (up 8 from 2013-14) to accredit 35 different courses (up 5 from 2013-14) from 12 countries (up 2 from 2013-14). Of the 35 course requests received, the UICC accredited 24 as UNIVs; 8 courses were referred out to other departments within schools or colleges, and the remaining courses are still under review. The UICC also receive one request to increase the level of an INTD transfer course from 1000 to 2000-level. This adjustment was approved.

Given the value of study abroad to student learning and development, the UICC has been reviewing these applications and awarding mainly UNIV 1993/3993 credit for courses that meet the appropriate academic standards. This allows students to receive credit even though these credits will likely not count towards major requirements.

Because the UICC is frequently a catch-all for courses that do not fit within academic departments, it is often called upon to accredit a wide array courses for students with a diverse array of needs. As such, the UICC was finding it increasing difficult to serve the accreditation needs of students with only two available course shells. The committee thus approved the creation of a sophomore level study abroad shell (UNIV 2993) as well as two S/U graded shells (UNIV 1983, UNIV 2983). These shells have already benefited students by allowing the UICC to accredit courses that did not fit within the relatively narrow confines of the previously existing shells. A fourth new course shell is currently being developed that would be available to UConn instructors who are teaching courses abroad that do not necessarily fit within an academic department, for example, a course offered through one of the learning communities.

A number of issues persist regarding study abroad accreditation:

- Some departments are either unable or less willing to accredit Study Abroad courses, even if the course is clearly in their discipline (e.g. some departments do not have general 1000- or 2000-level "International Study" course shells, so lower-level courses cannot be accredited within that discipline). As such, those courses get funneled to the UICC as a last resort.
- There is no centralized process for accrediting study abroad courses, and Education Abroad does not have the personnel to oversee this process. Consequently, students are sent "shopping" for credit, a process that can take a lot of time and result in much frustration. This process may be helped by the introduction this past year of an on-line course accreditation system by the Education Abroad office.

The UNIV Curriculum

Offering unit	Course number	Course title
First Year Programs and Learning Communities	UNIV 1800	FYE University Learning Skills
	UNIV 1810	FYE Learning Community Seminar
	UNIV 1820	First Year Seminar
	UNIV 1840	Learning Community Service-Learning
	UNIV 3820	Learning Community Advanced Seminar
Honors Program	UNIV 1784	Freshman Honors Seminar
	UNIV 3784	Interdisciplinary Honors Seminar
Career Services	UNIV 1991	Supervised Internship Experience
	UNIV 1981	Documented Internship Experience (S/U)
	UNIV 3991	Interdisciplinary Internship Field Experience
Student Affairs	UNIV 4800	Senior Year Experience
Center for Academic Programs within the Institute for Student Success	UNIV 2100	The McNair Scholar
African American Cultural Center	UNIV 2230	The PA ² SS Program, Mentoring African American Students
Q Center	UNIV 2300	Tutoring Principles for Quantitative Learning
Rainbow Center	UNIV 2500	Gender, Sexuality and Community
Individualized & Interdisciplinary Studies Program	UNIV 2600	Individualized Study Across Academic Disciplines
	UNIV 4600W	Capstone Course
	UNIV 4697W	Senior Thesis
Other courses	UNIV 1985/3985	Special Topics (S/U)
	UNIV 1995/3995	Special Topics (graded)
	UNIV 1993/2993/3993	International Study
	UNIV 1983/2983	International Study (S/U)
	UNIV 1999/3999	Independent Study

The INTD Curriculum

Sponsoring unit(s)	Course number	Course title
School of Nursing	INTD 1500	Alcohol and Drugs on Campus: Exploring the College Culture
Individualized and Interdisciplinary Studies , Teachers for a New Era, and English	INTD 2245	Introduction to Diversity Studies in American Culture
Literature, Culture, and Languages	INTD 3222	Linkage Through Language
College of Liberal Arts and Science	INTD 3260	The Bible
Individualized and Interdisciplinary Studies	INTD 3584	Seminar in Urban Problems
	INTD 3590	Urban Field Studies
	INTD 3594/W	Urban Semester Field Work Seminar
School of Nursing, School of Pharmacy, and Center for Correctional Health Networks	INTD 3XXX	Introduction to Correctional Health
	INTD 4XXX	Translating Evidence: Applied Correctional Research
Other Courses	UNIV 1985/3985	Special Topics (S/U)
	UNIV 1995/3995	Special Topics (graded)
	UNIV 1993/3993	International Study
	UNIV 1999/3999	Independent Study

The AIRF and MISI Curriculum

Sponsoring unit(s)	Course number	Course title
Office of Veterans Affairs and Military Programs	AIRF 1000/1200	Air Force Studies I
	AIRF 2000/2200	Air Force Studies II
	AIRF 3000/3200/W	Air Force Studies III
	AIRF 3500	Aviation Ground School
	AIRF 4000/4200	Air Force Studies IV
Office of Veterans Affairs and Military Programs	MISI 1101/1102	General Military Science I
	MISI 1133	General Military Science: Air Rifle Marksmanship
	MISI 1201/1202	General Military Science II
	MISI 3301/3302	General Military Science III
	MISI 4401/4402	General Military Science IV

UNIV, INTD, MISI and AIRF Course Offerings (2014-2015, 2013-2014 and 2012-2013)

	2014-2015		2013-2014		2012-2013*	
	Sections	Seats	Sections	Seats	Sections	Seats
UNIV 1784	30	515	27	455	25	427
UNIV 3784	4	45	3	37	3	27
UNIV 1800	146	2447	131	2253	130	2248
UNIV 1810	69	1071	53	907	57	961
UNIV 1820	37	562	37	468	46	499
UNIV 1840	13	171	7	181		
UNIV 1991	2	6	2	6	2	6
UNIV 3991	2	8	2	7	2	12
UNIV 1981	1	4	1	2	0	0
UNIV 1998			0	0	8	228
UNIV 2100	1	11				
UNIV 2230	3	136	3	131	4	87
UNIV 2300	0	0	0	0	1	3
UNIV 2500	2	25				
UNIV 2600	2	24				
UNIV 3820	5	52				
UNIV 4600W	2	40	2	38	2	34
UNIV 4697W	13	13	9	9	8	11
UNIV 4800	23	495	27	322	23	289
UNIV 1995/3995	3	49	6	61	2	25
UNIV 1999/3999	1	10	2	6	0	0
TOTAL UNIV	359	5684	309	4846	314	4863
INTD 1500	0	0	0	0	0	0
INTD 1985/3985	0	0	1	13	1	24
INTD 1995/3995	2	4	0	0	0	0
INTD 2245	1	36	1	37	1	32
INTD 3222	6	42	2	17	32	181
INTD 3260	1	12	1	34	1	29
INTD 3584	0	0	0	0	0	0
INTD 3590	0	0	0	0	0	0
INTD 3594/W	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL INTD	10	94	5	101	35	266
TOTAL INTD & UNIV	368	5767	314	4947	349	5129
AIRF 1000/1200	3	23				
AIRF 2000/2200	2	20				
AIRF 3000/3200	2	15				
AIRF 3000W/3200W	1	8				
AIRF 3500	1	12				
AIRF 4000/4200	2	16				
TOTAL AIRF	11	94	-	-	-	-
MISI 1101/1102	6	82				
MISI 1133	0	0				
MISI 1201/1202	2	25				
MISI 3301/3302	2	35				
MISI 4401/4402	2	40				
TOTAL MISI	12	182	-	-	-	-
TOTAL UICC COURSES	391	6043	314	4947	349	5129

Based on data supplied by OIR. * UNIV courses in 2012-13 were still under the INTD designation.

** MISI and AIRF did not fall under the purview of the UICC until after the 2013-14 AY.

In previous UICC annual reports, the data on courses were given for the previous rather than the current academic years. Starting last year (2013-14), data are now given for the current year (2014-15). This meant that data for 2012-13 were not included in last year's report. These data were since requested and have been included in this report.

After an enrollment decline in 2013-14, UNIV and INTD offerings appear to have rebounded, due at least in part to the addition of several new UNIV courses and an enrollment surge in the UNIV 4800 course. All six UConn campuses offer UNIV courses while INTD, MISI and AIRF courses are offered mainly in Storrs.

UNIV Courses offered at Regional Campuses

FALL	Avery Point		Hartford		Stamford		Torrington		Waterbury	
UNIV 1800	8	127	10	249	7	149	4	50	8	149
UNIV 1810	1	5								
UNIV 1820	2	35	1	8						
UNIV 3784					1	9				
UNIV 3985					1	18				
UNIV 3991					1	3				
SPRING										
UNIV 1800										
UNIV 1810										
UNIV 1820	2	20	2	39					2	20
UNIV 3784										
UNIV 3985										
UNIV 3991										

2014-2015 instructors of INTD and UNIV course sections were 26% faculty (tenured, untenured, adjunct), 15% graduate students, and 59% other professionals (versus AY13-14: 32%, 10%, 58% respectively; and AY12/13: 42%, 13%, 45% respectively). While there may be a decline in the percentage of INTD and UNIV courses taught by faculty, UICC requires the units that offer UNIV courses to have faculty boards that oversee the curriculum. Part of their charge is to ensure all those filling the instructor role are qualified and that graduate students and staff are given appropriate guidance and support.

UICC Membership 2014-15

Faculty (voting members and alternates)		
Chair	CANR/ NUSC	Hedley Freake
Member	CANR/ANSC	Gary Kazmer
Member	CLAS/ HDFS	Shannon Weaver
Member	NEAG/EDLR	Laura Burton
Member	SFA/ DRAM	David Stern
Member	SOB/ACCT	Larry Gramling
Member	SOE/ECE	Eric Donkor
Member	SON	Jennifer Telford
Member	SOP/ PHAR SCI	David Grant
Member	REGIONAL/URBN	Edith Barrett
Alternate	CANR/AHS	Susan Gregoire
Alternate	CLAS/ GEOG	Chuanrong Zhang
Alternate	NEAG/EDLR	Jennifer Bruening
Alternate	SFA/DRAM	Michael Bradford
Alternate	SOB/	
Alternate	SOE/CSE	Ion Mandoiu
Alternate	SON	Thomas Long
Alternate	SOP/ PHAR SCI	Olga Vinogradova
Alternate	REGIONAL/MARN	Annelie Skoog
Ex-Officio (non-voting members and alternates)		
Member	Enrichment Programs	Jaclyn Chancey
Member	Inst. for Student Success	David Ouimette
Member	Center for Career Devel.	Jim Lowe
Member	Registrar's Office	Marianne Buck
Member	Senate C&CC	Eric Schultz
Member	Student Affairs	Daniel Doerr
Member	VA and Military Programs	Kristopher Perry
Alternate	Enrichment Programs	Monica van Beusekom
Alternate	Inst. for Student Success	Maria D. Martinez
Alternate	Center for Career Devel.	Beth Settje
Alternate	Registrar's Office	Lauren DiGrazia
Alternate	Senate C&CC	Pamela Bedore
Alternate	Student Affairs	Sue Sanders
Alternate	VA and Military Programs	

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