

MINUTES

Meeting Date: Thursday February 7, 2012

Time: 9:00am – 10:30am

Place: Rowe 134

Voting Members and Alternates in Attendance: Hedley Freake, Olga Vinogradova, Jennifer Telford, Larry Gramling, Gary Kazmer, Eric Donkor, Laura Burton, David Stern.

Ex Officio Members and Alternates in Attendance: Marianne Buck, Margaret Lamb, Jennifer Lease Butts, Kim Chambers, David Ouimette

Meeting called to order at 9:05am.

1. Welcome and introduction of Karen Piantek as the new UICC administrator.

2. Approval of minutes from the December 13, 2012 meeting

Motion to approve the minutes with minor amendments. Motion seconded.

Motion carried.

3. Old Business

3.1. Final Catalogue Language

A print-out of the draft INTD and UNIV catalog descriptions from the website was circulated to the committee.

Upon review of the copies presented, a prefatory sentence adopted at the previous UICC meeting that was supposed to be added to the INTD section was not yet reflected in the catalog. Marianne Bucks said that she would add it, if she had not already done so. UNIV 1991 had been overlooked by Senate CCC and will be included once confirmed by the Senate.

3.2. Grade Appeals

Hedley Freake had indicated in December that he would speak to the Registrar about her role in the process for INTD grade appeals. He reported that the registrar was pleased that UICC was thinking about this, since while her predecessor had developed a procedure for handling these grade appeals, the UICC chair was more appropriate for this function. She was unaware of any INTD grade appeals ever being requested. Per the December meeting, Hedley Freake drafted language to explain the UICC's role in the process of grade appeals for INTD and UNIV courses and this was circulated to the committee.

Upon review of the draft, the question was raised as to where students who had not yet declared a major should be directed for appeals beyond the UICC chair since the document indicates that students enrolled in a program of study would "be directed to the dean of the school or college in which the student is enrolled."

The UICC chair asked if anyone would suggest a dean to spearhead this. There was a discussion of the chain of appeal and it was suggested that the Dean of the College of Arts and Science might be the most appropriate choice. The committee thus drafted the following amended procedure:

"The process for appealing assigned course grades is described in the By-Laws, Rules, and Regulations of the University Senate, II.E.10, see below.

For INTD courses, the process will proceed as described in the By-Laws, utilizing the department head of the lead instructor of the course and the corresponding dean.

For UNIV courses, the UICC chair will function in place of the department head. Further appeals will be directed to the dean of the school or college in which the student is enrolled. In the event that the student has not yet selected a major, appeals beyond the UICC chair will go to the dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences."

Motion to approve the amended document by Jennifer Telford. Motion seconded by Eric Donkor.

Motion carried unanimously.

Larry Gramling agreed to take the draft to the Senate Scholastic Standards Committee to determine whether any follow up was required on their part.

3.3 Study Abroad Approvals

A list of the approved Study Abroad course requests for INTD credit for AY 2011-2012 and AY 2012-2013 was circulated to the committee. Anabel Perez noted that the list for AY 2012-2013 is not yet complete.

Hedley Freake indicated that he met with Richard Langlois, chair of the Study Abroad Advisory Committee. Among the topics they discussed were the anomaly of assigning grades to courses that come in from institutions abroad but not in this country and the question of the role of UICC in dealing with the issue of foreign course accreditations in general.

It was suggested that Study Abroad should have their own curriculum person to simplify the process for accreditation. UICC would still be involved for courses that were truly interdisciplinary and also to oversee the actions within study abroad for those courses with a UNIV designation.

Kim Chambers questioned specifically the Psychology courses on the 2012-2013 list and it was clarified that some departments want to maintain tight control of which courses can be used within their program. Anabel Perez suggested that the creation of a PSYC 3994 course that would not count towards the major but would reflect the psychology content of these courses. Margaret Lamb agreed that this should be encouraged.

Jennifer Telford pointed out that the university wants to encourage study abroad and that the problems with course accreditations could hinder that. Margaret Lamb gave an example of student with a particularly problematic situation and noted that it could be 18 months before a student knows if their courses will be accredited.

The suggestion was made to have a college-level designation for study abroad (e.g. CLAS) to award credit for these courses under a specific college if not a specific department.

Larry Gramling questioned whether a course that is completely unlike anything at UConn would be accepted for credit here. Hedley Freake and Margaret Lamb argued that taking courses unavailable here was a benefit of studying abroad and these could be given the UNIV designation.

Margaret Lamb noted in general that there needs to be a better system for directing students as to where to get credit when they come back from study abroad and the formation of a curricular position in SA would assist this. The UICC's position is that SA needs to take action on this.

4. New Business

4.1. Annual Report

Hedley Freake noted that the UICC gives an oral report to the Senate every year. Tammy Gifford recently requested this report for this year, but the question was raised as to whether the UICC needs to do this annually.

Hedley Freake suggested that perhaps it doesn't need to be an annual oral report and that a written report would suffice. He noted that there may not be a lot of business to address this semester, which ties into the need for the report, as well as the purpose of the committee moving forward.

Kim Chambers asked if annual reports weren't required by Senate by-laws, but UICC is not a senate committee and so not bound by those requirements.

A free-flowing discussion deemed to be "unformed thoughts" related to the UICC followed. Among the issues raised were, ways to encourage and facilitate "team teaching" and other interdisciplinary approaches, a frustration with lack of discussion of learning and outcomes for students, student assessment and evaluation of learning and programs.

Motion to adjourn. Motion seconded and carried.

Adjourned at 10:14am

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Piantek
IISP Administrator