

MINUTES

Meeting Date: April 9, 2012
Time: 12:00-1:30pm
Place: BUSN 321

Voting members and alternates in attendance: Hedley Freake, Laura Burton, Eric Donkor, Larry Gramling, Richard Rockwell, Jennifer Telford.

Ex officio members and alternates in attendance: Marianne Buck, Dan Doerr, Lynne Goodstein, Margaret Lamb, Maria Martinez, David Ouimette.

Others in attendance: Beth Settje, Kevin Sullivan.

Meeting called to order at 12:02pm.

1. Welcome

2. Approval of minutes from the March 19, 2012 meeting

Dr. Jennifer Telford moved to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2012 meeting. Dr. Eric Donkor seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

3. Announcements

Chair Hedley Freake announced that the UICC/INTD Report to Senate for AY1011 was presented at the March 26, 2012 Senate meeting. Also, the UICC's proposed By-Laws change to have Senate C&CC oversee UICC courses came up for a vote after being presented at the February Senate meeting. The Report was accepted and the motion was approved, though Dr. Phil Mannheim expressed concern over accreditation-related problems if people other than faculty are allowed to teach courses and noted that teaching courses is a faculty business.

4. New Business

4.1 Program Reports

4.1.a. INTD 3784 Interdisciplinary Honors Seminar, Honors Program

Dr. Lynne Goodstein, Director of the Honors Program, presented the Honors Program report on their use of INTD 3784. The course has been in effect since the early 1990s and has been taught using different curricular models over the years. It is essentially a course that is used by the Stamford Campus to support its Honors Program (the Stamford Campus Honors Program uses the same rigorous requirements as the Storrs Honors Program). Because Stamford is a campus with relatively few Honors students, there are relatively few Honors courses, not enough to allow Stamford Honors students to earn enough credit to graduate with Honors. The Stamford program, then, uses INTD 3784 for their Honors students to earn Honors credit.

When Dr. Ernie Zirakzadeh was head of Honors, the course was used for Honors seminars developed through a course competition. For a time, the course was also used

to develop leadership and peer mentoring skills for Honors students serving as INTD 1784 mentors (this course is now housed in EGEN). In some ways, Dr. Lynne Goodstein explained, the course is like a variable topics course and is taught by faculty and some staff with a terminal degree.

In response to questions about the relationship between Honors at the different campuses, Dr. Lynne Goodstein noted that the Honors Program functions as a single program throughout the campuses and that there are representatives from the regional campuses on the Honors Board of Associate Directors. The Head of the Stamford Campus Honors Program, for example, is on the HBAD.

Dr. Jennifer Telford moved to approve the INTD 3784 program report. Dr. Eric Donkor seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

4.1.b. INTD 1820 FYE Faculty/Student Seminar, First Year Experience and Learning Communities Program

Mr. David Ouimette, Director of the Office of First Year Programs and Learning Communities, presented their report on the use of INTD 1820. He noted that, because faculty are teaching fewer sections (and are taught by faculty as an overload) and interest in the learning communities has grown (leading students to take INTD 1810 instead), the need for this course has been reduced. Operation of this course has been tightened so that, consistent with its name, it is to be taught ONLY by faculty. This change, he argued, would likely address some of the questions the course has generated across campus.

Dr. Richard Rockwell, who teaches a section of INTD 1820, stated that this course offers student the first taste of a small class at UConn. Across other universities, courses of this nature are not considered overload and their teaching is recognized. Dr. Lynne Goodstein added that there is always a conflict when faculty is being asked to offer a class that is not teaching the majors in their department. If this were something on which the university placed value, it would need to be supported beyond the departmental level.

Chair Hedley Freake asked if the intent of the FYP was to create a parallel course that would be taught by staff. Mr. David Ouimette responded that their program would put forth such a proposal, for a tentatively numbered UNIV 1830, in the next academic year.

Dr. Richard Rockwell moved to approve the INTD 1820 program report. Dr. Jennifer Telford seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

4.2. INTD Course Proposals

4.2.a. UNIV-type INTD 1981 Documented Internship Experience, 0 credit, Career Services Center

Ms. Beth Settje presented the course proposal to add a new non-credit bearing internship course option for students. She explained that there are times that students do not require credit for an internship but they'd like to receive some sort of notation on their transcript showing that they completed one.

Career Services proposes a 0 credit internship course that would require a learning contract, a resume, an evaluation paper of shorter length than that required of the 1 credit internship course but one that still requires learning. The only fee a student would pay to take this course would be the \$45 registration fee. Also, like the 1 credit internship option, students would be required to get the approval of the department head for their major. The minimum requirements for this internship would be 80 hrs and would need to include work that merits credit (for example, a student cannot get credit for an internship that only involves filing; however, it would be allowed if filing were less than 25% of the total internship).

Several members noted that other 0 credit courses exist at UConn.

Dr. Laura Burton moved to approve the proposal. Dr. Richard Rockwell seconded the motion.

Motion carried with 3 voting members in favor and 2 abstaining.

4.3. INTD Study Abroad Accreditation, AY1112 approvals to date

Chair Hedley Freake circulated a list of individual student requests for INTD study abroad accreditation approved to date. The current process is as follows: for each request, a student must obtain their advisor's signature approving their request for INTD accreditation and stating how, if at all, the course should be counted in relation to their degree; Ms. Anabel Perez then researches each request – including a detailed review of foreign university practice for credits, degree program and university graduation requirements, total typical course load per semester, course level, total meeting time, etc. – and makes a recommendation to Dr. Margaret Lamb and Chair Hedley Freake. In many cases, a course comes to the IISP office because another department's faculty evaluator has recommended it be considered for INTD credit.

Study abroad courses pose a particular challenge at UConn. While UConn encourages students to study abroad and the majority of faculty agrees that studying abroad is a good idea, there has been a lag in departmental accreditation. So, in many cases, that courses that come for INTD review are those that other departments have refused to accredit; INTD, then, functions as a place of last resort.

There is a move within CLAS to create additional curricular vehicles for these kinds of courses when individual departments are reluctant to approve them with a departmental designation. The CLAS C&CC chair, Dr. Bob Michel, has raised another issue regarding study abroad: if a course is taken abroad, a course transfers in with a grade; however, regular transfer courses taken at other national universities transfer in credit but no grade.

Dr. Larry Gramling raised some concern that credit is being granted for courses that the logical home department has said are not legitimate courses. For example, if department X says no to a particular course, why should another department grant it credit. Chair Hedley Freake responded that he and the IISP office determine whether a course is legitimate and should be considered for university credit, not how it may be counted toward a degree.

Dr. Larry Gramling also noted that there are some courses that are taken abroad that are not remotely offered at UConn, such as fashion studies courses. Several fashion courses were approved in this past academic year for INTD credit when UConn does not have a department of fashion. Chair Hedley Freake responded that a good argument supporting this practice is that students should go abroad to universities where they can take courses they would not be able to take at UConn.

Asked whether there might ever be UNIV study abroad courses, Chair Hedley Freake answered that there could be, especially if IISP was responsible for accreditation (as IISP is outside of the schools and colleges but reports to the Provost).

Dr. Eric Donkor inquired over whether there should be a limit to how many credits a student can take abroad and how much internship credit can be counted. Chair Hedley Freake stated that programs place their own limits on internship credits, as do schools; this committee does not need to set any limits.

Dr. Lynne Goodstein noted that the issue is not just about transfer credit but about assessing the quality of the programs. In many cases, students are taking courses at universities that are higher ranked than UConn and students should not be penalized for going abroad. Part of the question is how much we value the study abroad experience and how much we trust that the Study Abroad Office is offering high quality programs. The issue of credit is only one small part of the study abroad experience that demands the attention of more than the Senate Scholastic Standards Committee.

Dr. Richard Rockwell responded that the issue of encouraging and supporting study abroad is different than how credits are brought back to UConn and added that the Senate By-Laws change approved last year allow for study abroad courses count as resident credit.

5. Old Business

5.1. Current INTD courses without department

Chair Hedley Freake prepared a list of courses without departments. We will discuss this at the last meeting of the semester, April 30, 2012.

Meeting adjourned at 1:24pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Anabel Perez
IISP Administrator