

MINUTES

Meeting Date: Thursday, December 13, 2012
Time: 10:00am – 11:30am
Place: Dodd 162

Voting Members and Alternates in Attendance: Larry Grambling, Gary Kazmer, Eric Donkor, David Grant, Laura Burton.

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

Meeting called to order at 10:06am.

1. Welcome.

2. Approval of minutes from the November 12, 2012 meeting

Motion to approve the minutes as presented. Motion seconded.

Motion carried.

3. Old Business

3.1. Report back from Senate C&CC

It was reported that the INTD and UNIV catalog changes submitted by this committee to the Senate C&CC were approved at the December 10, 2012 Senate meeting following approval from the Senate C&CC. The changes will be included in the 2013-14 catalog.

3.2. Final Catalog Language

A distilled version of the approved catalog language was circulated to the UICC.

To be inserted above the INTD catalog language:

“The INTD designation is used for interdisciplinary courses sponsored by 2 or more academic departments based in the schools and colleges.”

The UICC should initiate a communication with school and college C&CCs to discuss the new designation and related changes. There is also a larger audience in the associate deans and the advising network.

4. New Business

4.1. INTD 3995 Special Topics

The McNair Scholar, 1 credit, sponsored by the Center for Academic Programs (CAP)

Dr. Maria Martinez offered an introduction of the proposal. UConn received a grant from US Department of Education for funding of \$1.1 million for 5 years toward the Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program. The program is intended “to prepare eligible participants for doctoral studies through involvement in research and other scholarly activities.” The program is for students “from disadvantaged backgrounds and have demonstrated strong academic potential.” (<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/triomcnair/index.html>)

CAP is proposing to offer a 1 credit course for the cohort of students participating in the program and would focus on research and forging relationships with faculty in the STEM fields. The course would meet for 1.5 hours per week for 10 classes. Because of the delay in funding, the program cannot start until later in the Spring 2013 semester; for this reason, they are proposing to offer the course in Spring 2013 despite the late submission.

The biggest component of the course would be to teach students how to research an area and that, in working with faculty, they will learn the skills to become researchers. The Spring course is intended to prepare students to conduct research in Summer 2013. A group of faculty will be formed to review the students' research work, students will work on the research through the summer, and then receive their stipends. Students will then present at a national conference.

In terms of course development, CAP followed the standards of long-standing McNair programs across the country. Faculty members participating will be getting stipends to do research with the students and a TA will be provided by the graduate school for the program.

Discussion:

- The course proposed to be repeated for credit. It is possible that some students in the Spring 2013 cohort will not be ready for summer research so would have to retake the course.
- While the intent long-term is for students to be able to repeat the course, the proposal will come back to the UICC before that happens.
- University policy does not allow for attendance to be used toward the final grade; rather, the UICC advised the proposers that points be added to participation and that attendance be removed altogether from the grading.
- Is student research meant to be connected to their planned graduate research?
 - This is the plan. However, the summer research proposal is more feasible than a graduate research proposal.
- In future offerings, it may be good idea to make the course a sequence based on the students' class standing.
 - It is CAP's hope that this program will be able to develop a scaffold of courses.
- Questions were raised about a CAP faculty board.
 - CAP is in the process of forming a CAP faculty board. In the meantime, this proposal has been approved by the CAP Advisory Board, which includes several faculty among its members.
- How are students being recruited?
 - Recruitment is happening via a combination of information sessions, targeted programs, referrals, etc.
- Criteria for inclusion are low-income, first-generation, and under-represented ethnic groups.

Motion to approve the course for one offering. Motion seconded.

Motion carried.

4.2. Grade appeals

Grade appeals are one administrative function that falls to the UICC. It makes sense that whoever is UICC chair be the de facto department head related to grade appeals and the monitoring of the catalog. Whatever process is created should be consistent with practice across the university.

Chair Hedley Freake will check with Lauren DiGrazia to discuss how INTD is administratively placed within the university.

The grade appeal process would go from the student, to the UICC chair, to dean of the student's school. This process mirrors that which currently resides in the By-Laws for other departments.

Whether a sentence need be added to the By-Laws regarding the process for UNIV course grade appeals will be discussed at the SEC. It is possible that it will be seen as merely a clarification of the By-Laws which does not necessitate a By-Laws change.

INTD grade appeals would follow the regular grade appeals process and being with the academic department of the lead instructor and progress as any other appeal through the school or college.

A draft of language to be added to the catalog will be crafted and brought to the next meeting.

4.3. Study Abroad approvals

INTD has become a catchall designation for students who study abroad and cannot get credit elsewhere because of different departmental policies. Some of these courses are not truly interdisciplinary.

Ideally, the schools and colleges would create policy and mechanisms so that their students can get academic credit for the courses they take while on approved study abroad programs.

Motion to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,
Anabel Perez
IISP Administrator