

## **Report to Senate: University Interdisciplinary Courses Committee**

Hedley Freake, Chair March 25, 2013

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. Administrative support for UICC and routine matters related to INTD and UNIV courses are dealt with by IISP (Individualized & Interdisciplinary Studies Program).

The committee has met 6 times in the current academic year and this report summarizes its activities.

### **Division into INTD and UNIV courses**

The principles for separation of the existing INTD curriculum into INTD and UNIV sections developed by the committee were approved by the Senate in the prior academic year (Senate meeting 2/27/12) including a by-law change to require Senate approval for all UNIV courses (Senate meeting 3/26/12). 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 (see Senate minutes 2/27/12 for details).

The UICC completed its review of the existing INTD curriculum and brought forward to the Senate Curricula and Courses Committee (SCCC) a complex set of proposals to modify or delete existing INTD courses and to create new UNIV ones. In addition to the separation of INTD and UNIV, these revisions also sought to rationalize and simplify the curriculum, which had developed over decades in a somewhat piecemeal fashion. Those proposals were approved by the SCCC and brought to the Senate in December and February of this academic year (see Senate minutes 12/10/2012 and 2/25/13), when they were approved as part of the Consent Agenda. The resulting curriculum now comprises 19 INTD and 21 UNIV courses and will be operational for the fall semester.

### **Other issues**

As part of the curricular revision, the UICC in coordination with the SCCC developed guidelines on the levels of approval required for offering INTD and UNIV special topics and independent study courses. Following approval of the faculty board within the unit offering the course, the proposals will be given final approval by UICC, with subsequent reporting of this action to SCCC and, in the case of UNIV courses, also to the Senate.

The UICC is also developing procedures to govern grade appeals for INTD and UICC

courses. Since INTD courses arise from departments within the schools and colleges, the usual procedures of those units can be utilized. Thus the issue lies with UNIV courses. The UICC continues to receive a number of requests from students to accredit courses taken while studying abroad. Given the value of study abroad to student learning and development, the UICC has been reviewing these applications and awarding INTD 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.

### **New courses**

One new course was approved UNIV 1981 Documented Internship Experience. This is a 0 credit course developed by Career Services that will allow students to have internship experiences included on their transcripts. In addition, the new course UNIV 1840 Learning Community Service Learning was approved by UICC as well as a name/catalog change for UNIV 1820 (from FYE Faculty/Student Seminar to First Year Seminar) to reflect the fact that non-faculty staff members also teach this course. Both changes have been forwarded to the SCCC for action.

### **The UNIV Curriculum**

| <b>Offering unit</b>  | <b>Course number</b> | <b>Course title</b>  |
|---|----------------------|--|
| <b>First Year Programs and Learning Communities</b>           | <b>1800</b>          | <b>FYE University Learning Skills</b>                                    |
|   | <b>1810</b>          | <b>FYE Learning Community Seminar</b>                                    |
|   | <b>1820</b>          | <b>FYE Faculty/Student Seminar</b>                                       |
|   | <b>1998</b>          | <b>Variable Topics</b>   |
| <b>Honors Program</b>   | <b>1784</b>          | <b>Freshman Honors Seminar</b>   |
|   | <b>3784</b>          | <b>Interdisciplinary Honors Seminar</b>                                  |
| <b>Student Affairs</b>  | <b>1991</b>          | <b>Supervised Internship Experience</b>                                  |
|   | <b>3991</b>          | <b>Interdisciplinary Internship Field Experience</b>                     |
|   | <b>4800</b>          | <b>Senior Year Experience</b>  |
| <b>African American Cultural Center</b>                       | <b>2230</b>          | <b>The PA<sup>2</sup>SS Program, Mentoring African American Students</b> |
| <b>Q Center</b>   | <b>2300</b>          | <b>Tutoring Principles for Quantitative Learning</b>                     |
| <b>Individualized &amp; Interdisciplinary Studies Program</b> | <b>4600W</b>         | <b>Capstone Course</b>   |
|   | <b>4697W</b>         | <b>Senior Thesis</b>   |
| <b>Other courses</b>  | <b>1985/3985</b>     | <b>Special Topics S/U</b>  |
|   | <b>1993/3993</b>     | <b>International Study</b>   |
|   | <b>1995/3995</b>     | <b>Special Topics (graded)</b>   |
|   | <b>1999/3999</b>     | <b>Independent Study</b>   |

**INTD Course Statistics (2011-2012, with comparison to 2010/2011 and 2009/2010)**  
 PeopleSoft listings of INTD course sections (based on data supplied by OIR)

|  | 2011-12    |             | 2010-11  |       | 2009-10  |       |
|--|------------|-------------|----------|-------|----------|-------|
|  | Sections   | Seats       | Sections | Seats | Sections | Seats |
| First Year Experience Program (INTD 1800, 1810, 1820, 3984 – each 1 cr.)                             | 255        | 4178        | 305      | 4785  | 288      | 4419  |
| Honors Program courses (INTD 1784, 3784 – 1 cr., and 3 cr. respectively)                             | 29         | 440         | 28       | 483   | 29       | 484   |
| Linkage through Language course (INTD 3222 – 1 cr.)  | 30         | 139         | 24       | 139   | 27       | 177   |
| Student Affairs (INTD 1991, 4800 – 1 cr.; 3991 – var. cr.) (preAY11 data only includes 4800)         | 9          | 352         | 7        | 339   | 2        | 336   |
| Departmental- and Program-based courses with individual catalog listings                             | 20         | 182         | 19       | 189   | 22       | 237   |
| Other INTD courses (including experimental, special topics, independent study, study abroad courses) | 69         | 493         | 84       | 941   | 100      | 896   |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>412</b> | <b>5784</b> | 467      | 6876  | 468      | 6549  |

Every one of UConn's six campuses used at least two INTD courses to offer sections to its students.

2011-2012 instructors of INTD course sections were 42% faculty (tenured, untenured, adjunct), 13% graduate students, and 45% other professionals (10/11: 34%, 14%, 52% respectively; 09/10: 32%, 13%, 55% respectively).

**UICC Members 2012-2013**

| Faculty (voting members and alternates) |               |                                 |
|---|---------------|---------------------------------|
| Chair                                   | CANR/ NUSC    | Hedley Freake                   |
| Member                                  | CANR/ANSC     | Gary Kazmer                     |
| Member                                  | CLAS/ SOCI    | Shannon Weaver                  |
| Member                                  | NEAG/EKIN     | 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/NRE      | George Elliott                  |
| Alternate                               | CLAS/ HDFS    | Ralf Schiffler                  |
| Alternate                               | NEAG/EDCI     | Jason Irizarry                  |
| Alternate                               | SFA/DRAM      | Tim Hunter/<br>Michael Bradford |
| Alternate                               | SOB/OPIM      | Girish Punj                     |
| Alternate                               | SOE/CSE       | Ion Mandoiu                     |
| Alternate                               | SON           | Thomas Long                     |
| Alternate                               | SOP           | Olga Vinogradova                |
| Alternate                               | REGIONAL/MARN | Anelie Skoog                    |

Administrative support was provided by Anabel Perez and Karen Piantek (from January 2013).

| <b>Ex-Officio (non-voting members and alternates)</b> |                           |                      |
|---|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Member  | Enrichment Programs       | Jennifer Lease-Butts |
| Member  | Inst. for Student Success | David Ouimette       |
| Member  | CETL                      | Kim Chambers         |
| Member  | Registrar's Office        | Marianne Buck        |
| Member  | Senate C&CC               | Eric Schultz         |
| Member  | Student Affairs           | Daniel Doerr         |
| Alternate   | Enrichment Programs       | Margaret Lamb        |
| Alternate   | Inst. for Student Success | Maria D. Martinez    |
| Alternate   | Registrar's Office        | Lauren DiGrazia      |
| Alternate   | Student Affairs           | Sue Sanders          |