The University of Connecticut

UNIVERSITY INTERDISCIPLINARY COURSES COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Meeting Date: Tuesday, December 1, 2015
Time: 2:00pm
Place: ROWE 420

Voting Members and Alternates in attendance: Eric Donkor (Chair), Hedley Freake (CAHNR), Shannon Weaver (CLAS), Laura Burton (SoE), Lawrence Gramling (SoB), Sarira Motaref (SoE), Tom Long (SoN), Olga Vinogradova (SoPH)

Ex Officio Members in attendance: Jaclyn Chancey, David Ouimette, Marianne Buck, Tom Fritsch, Pam Bedore, Beth Settje, Kris Perry

Administrators and Guests: Cheryl Galli (Admin), Renee Gilberti

Regrets:

Meeting called to order at 2:04pm

1. Welcome

UICC Chair Eric Donkor welcomed everyone and introduced Cheryl Galli as the new administrative support to the committee. E. Donkor shared that he has taken part in beta testing of the new Course Action Request (CAR) form. His experience was positive and, although no formal decision has been made by the UICC, his inclination is that we will want to participate. E. Donkor then spoke about upcoming activities for the committee. He noted that the bulk of the spring 2016 work will center on the course alignment project. The Enrichment and Individualized Majors programs will make a presentation to the committee in the spring.

2. Approval of minutes from the October 6, 2015 meeting

T. Long motioned to approve. O. Vinogradova seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. New Business

3.1. Proposal to add UNIV 2100 – The McNair Scholar

- Renee Gilbert gave an introduction and overview of the course. The course is mandatory for McNair Scholar program participants and is open only to those students. She noted that the purpose of this proposal is to remove exclusivity and open to all students.
- T. Long commented that he has worked with students from the McNair Scholars program and is impressed with the program. He asked if this proposal is designed to replace the course for McNair students. After assurance that the course is not changing but rather being made available to all students, T. Long noted concern that there may not be enough available seats for McNair students. R. Gilberti explained that she meets with each student prior to giving a permission number. This allows her to determine if the class is appropriate for the student.
J. Chancey noted that the catalog listing does not indicate instructor consent only or preference given to McNair Scholars.

P. Bedore questioned 50 estimated seats per section. R. Gilbert noted that a classroom that will accommodate 50 was requested to allow for attendance of faculty mentors, advisory committee and guests for presentations. 10-15 students may be enrolled per semester.

H. Freake noted there is a fair amount of writing required and asked if any consideration has been given to making it a W course. He noted the possible advantage to McNair scholars of having a second W course. R. Gilberti will take under consideration.

A discussion about the wording about LO3 took place. Alternatives to “students will work to conduct directed research and/or applied work” were suggested.

H. Freake asked for an explanation as to how “establish faculty mentor” would be graded as it is 30% of the grade. R. Gilberti responded that it would be based on conversations with the student and their ability to establish a connection with a faculty mentor. Discussion followed with concerns raised for those students who may put forth the effort yet are unable to establish a mentor. A suggestion was made to develop a step system whereby students may receive credit as they navigate the process of establishing a mentor.

T. Long motioned to approve the course with amendments to the catalog copy. O. Vinogradova seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

3.2 Global Studies Major

Hedley Freake gave an introduction and overview of the proposal for a new Global Studies major. (attached)

L. Gramling asked who would be designated as the Global Studies Director. H. Freake suggested it would be a new appointment, perhaps a part time appointment as is the case with Environmental Studies.

E. Donkor inquired about the education abroad piece and what experience would satisfy this requirement. This may be reviewed on an individualized basis and it could be a semester, a summer or through an approved internship.

There was a question as to the need for UICC to accredit the study abroad courses. It was noted that any courses outside of a school or college would come through UICC.

Adjourned at 3:09pm

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Galli
Administrative Services Assistant IV