AGENDA

Introductions (Ron)

Council Member Notebooks (Ron)

Undergraduate Council Charge (Ron)

Preview of UGC agenda for 2014-2015

Topics on Agenda for the Year:

1. Pre-majors
2. Concurrent degrees within Schools/Colleges
3. Overlap (“double-dipping”) with Majors and Minors
4. Online Education
5. What is an academic credit?

Minutes: None

Members of the Council introduced themselves to one another. The Chair noted that the dedication of the 9 Flags of the American Tribes was taking place simultaneously with the meeting of the UGC. He gave a brief history of the evolution of the 9 Flags project. The Chair also presented an overarching view of the accomplishments of the work of the Council in the overall picture of university academic planning, e.g. curriculum development and enhancement, cluster hire initiatives, etc.

Undergraduate Council charge from the Senate:

The Chair reviewed the Charge to the Council as presented in the seven points of the charge: 1) to review and promote undergraduate education, its objectives and purposes and the policies and procedures, curricula personnel and teaching decisions that affect it; 2) to participate on behalf of the University faculty, in the development and improvement of undergraduate education; 3) to formulate, monitor, and respond to general academic policies; 4) to develop and recommend new and revised baccalaureate degree requirements and policies; 5) to monitor, shape, and approve new undergraduate programs and changes to existing ones; 6) to establish criteria and outcomes to determine success of overall undergraduate program; and, 7) to monitor academic coherence, quality, and standards of the undergraduate program.
Preview of 2014-2015 UGC Agenda:
The Chair outlined an agenda of work that the Undergraduate Council will be undertaking throughout the year ahead.

A. Pre-majors;
   -the Council has reviewed the issue, but has not yet voted on it;
   -International Studies was the primary department needing a pre-major process for its degree program;
   -a process for handling International Studies pre-majors has proceeded through Academic Affairs and is being instituted by the Registrar’s Office;
   -CAS has a pre-major process proposal that provides a good model for addressing pre-majors. It would be good for the UGC to study this model and see if it meets the needs of programs needing pre-majors.

B and C. Concurrent degrees and course overlap (for majors and minors):
Although listed separately, these two issues are interrelated:
   -Concurrent degrees arose in AAA because there are potential majors within the school that do not involve “double-dipping” between the two majors;
   -the Registrar reiterated that two degrees cannot be issued to the same student within the same college. E.g., Art History in AAA is problematic and cannot be awarded along with another degree in AAA. This issue was deferred from last year by the Undergraduate Council
   -CAS is preparing a report on the issue which will probably be put out in Winter term;
   -another related issue is at the other extreme, viz. some degrees have so many pre-requisites that students are prohibited from taking other courses in other academic areas.

D. Online Education
   The UGC will be examining a number of questions around this issue:
   -What is the University’s strategy for online education?
   -CourseLeaf rolls out in Fall 2015. This new University-wide curriculum management software program currently holds the online course catalog. It will manage curriculum and will assist in the course review process.

E. Academic Credit
   The UGC will examine academic credit to help in the development of review and assessment of online and hybrid courses. Several questions need to be answered:
   -What is the relationship between transmission of knowledge to students and the electronic environment?
-Is online education a shift in delivery? A shift in format?
-How do we define student engagement online?
-The answers to these questions lies in understanding the philosophical underpinnings of academic credit and what a credit means.

**Discussion (see handout)**

A final item that was not on the agenda surfaced during open-floor discussion among Council members. This is the issue of how to regularize the curriculum that is satisfied with so many limited-credit courses that can apply toward bachelor degrees. This occurs with courses in MUS, PE, TLC, DNCE and others. There is a need to clarify the specific relationships of a course to an academic discipline. Another member suggested that these limited-credit courses could have a practicum relationship to an academic discipline. It was generally agreed that this issue will have to be revisited.

The next UGC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 16 at 10:30am in the Collaboration Room of the Knight Library.