Minutes from October 16, 2014 meeting

Continuing discussions:
1. Credit hour
2. Pre-major policy
3. Concurrent degrees

At the opening of the meeting, the Chair welcomed returning Council member Loren Kajikawa, representing the School of Music and Dance.

The Chair asked if there were any amendments or changes to the minutes of the October 16 meeting. Some typo errors were pointed out, but no substantive changes were made.

Minutes: The motion was made to accept the minutes of the meeting of October 16 with the noted typo errors corrected.
   Moved: Susan Anderson
   Seconded: Bill Harbaugh
The motion was passed unanimously by the Council.

Proposal for UGC Policy on Pre-Majors:
The Chair switched the order of the agenda and took up the proposal for a UGC Policy on Pre-Majors. A revised statement was distributed for the Council’s review. The revisions reflected questions and comments members had raised in the previous meeting’s discussion. A few phrases in the statement were tweaked for clarification, but the revised policy was generally acceptable. The Chair entertained a motion on the policy.

Motion: The motion was made to accept the revised UGC Policy on Pre-Majors as edited by the Council. The statement will be forwarded for inclusion in the Curriculum Report to the Senate.
   Moved: Kassia Dellabough
   Seconded: John Gage
The motion was passed unanimously by the Undergraduate Council.
(Policy statement attached.)

Credit Hour:
The Vice Provost submitted a report on the UO Academic Credit. The report presented a summary of how the traditional Carnegie Unit came to define academic credit in terms of classroom contact (between instructor and student) and student labor (additional student homework/study). It was proposed to focus discussion on a clarification of expectations for institutional pedagogy and to shift discussion of
This conversation would apply to three immediate UGC issues:

- So-called “para-academic courses (more accurately defined as “non-credit-bearing” courses vs. “credit-bearing” courses); 
- Evaluative standards and best pedagogical practices for online courses; 
- Overlapping student credits (double majors, majors/minors, concurrent degrees).

These questions bear upon strategic questions being examined by the University today. The Vice Provost proposed that the Council consider advocating a policy that would revise and clarify the meaning of the Student Credit Hour at the University of Oregon.

Council members reviewed the proposed policy and then discussed it. Council member suggested some “next steps” for ways to study questions raised:

- A look could be taken at syllabi across time in an effort to calibrate what constitutes effective 4-hour engagement;
- A survey could be made of other institutions who are tackling these same questions.

The Vice Provost asked members to please read the full proposal again outside the meeting and submit their comments to the Chair and the Vice Provost.

**Credit-Bearing vs Non-Credit Bearing Courses**

UO does not have articulated outcomes for degrees. Departments (both academic and non-academic) can teach courses without having to go through the official university approval process or through a regular review process. There is no clear path for how courses map to a degree. Some courses offered by non-academic units are used to fulfill General Education requirements. Other courses are used as requirements for student employment by the University. Further confusing the matter are the courses that are taught on the tuition model and the courses taught on the self-support model. This issue has been discussed by the Council since the UOCC asked for policy guidance in 2012-2013.

The Council generally agreed that it is important to create a clearly articulated path to distinguish credit-bearing courses from non-credit bearing courses. The goal is to have a policy formulated in 2014-2015 to forward to the Senate. A revised policy proposal will be sent around to members to preview before the next meeting.

The next UGC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 13, 2014 at 10:30am in the Collaboration Room of the Knight Library.