AGENDA
Minutes from October 30, 2014 meeting

Continuing discussions:

1. Concurrent degrees
2. Credit-bearing courses – how do we decide?

Minutes:
Review of minutes from October 30, 2014 meeting was deferred.

Concurrent degrees:
The Chair presented a very quick review of the issue of concurrent degrees before the Council. There seems to be a general consensus that concurrent degrees from the same college ought to be allowed. The thorny issue seems to be the required extra 36 credits for a second degree. This discussion followed a challenge from AAA that the degrees it offer already require 220 – 270 credit hours. This means that for a student to earn two degrees in AAA, 6 years of study would be required: 5 years for the first baccalaureate and an extra year to earn the second degree. Students returning as post-baccs to earn a second degree are required to take the additional 36 hours in the major. This means that the first baccalaureate would be earned in four years, with 180 hours in the major. The student would graduate and then would be eligible to return and earn 36 hours in the second major for the second degree. Some members felt that students who tried to complete two degrees simultaneously in their first round of college were disadvantaged as compared to post-baccalaureate students returning for a second degree.

Discussion
Council members made various observations about the concurrent degree issue:

- Some members felt that students who tried to complete two degrees simultaneously in their first round of college were disadvantaged as compared to post-baccalaureate students returning for a second degree.
- The average UO student is graduating with 210 credits.
- Professional degrees are very focused, not generalized; 2nd degrees are inter-related with the major for which the first degree was awarded.
- It should be remembered that as the Council has been looking at this, it was felt that feedback from schools and colleges is very important.
- It is important that the University’s degrees are not “cheapened” by adding a degree where multiple majors are possible.
In principle, members felt there should be the possibility for concurrent degrees. Oversight of this policy would be taken in three forms:

- excluded pairs of majors would be explicitly identified and posted for students and faculty.
- Standards for concurrent degrees would be set by the Undergraduate Council;
- Schools and colleges would decide how the standards would be met in their programs.

The Council felt that the whole concurrent degree issue could not be addressed in a single sweeping policy statement. The VPUGS will meet with the Associate Deans’ Council to gather feedback on concurrent degrees in general. The Chair called for a motion to begin revising current policy on concurrent degrees.

“Concurrent degrees are awarded under the following conditions:

1. The second degree is offered by a different school or college.
2. The student completes the departmental requirements for each major.
3. The student completes the general-education requirements for each degree.
4. The student completes a minimum of 36 credits at the UO beyond those required for the degree that has the highest credit requirement.
5. The student applies for the first degree on DuckWeb and submits a request to the Registrar’s Office for the second degree.”

The motion was made that the current policy on concurrent degrees be revised by changing restriction #1 to allow a second degree in the same school or college.

Moved: Kassia Dellabough  
Seconded: Susan Anderson

A second motion was made to change the language of the restriction #1 to read: “The second degree may be offered by the same school or college.”

Moved: Kassia Dellabough  
Seconded: John Gage

The Council concurred that proposed concurrent degrees will be reviewed and approved by the UGC.

A brief discussion was held on the ideal of all subjects offering both the BA degree and the BS degree options.

A discussion on the responsibility for oversight of concurrent degrees was deferred to a later meeting.

Credit-bearing Courses vs. Non-credit bearing Courses:

Lisa Freinkel reviewed the Council’s previous discussions on how courses are classified. She articulated the challenge of how to classify courses that may be educational, but do not necessarily take students toward a degree. Currently, we tend to conflate “academic”
with the “rigor” of courses, or to the “learning outcomes” of a course. The challenge is that we don’t have an up-to-date policy about Gen Ed learning outcomes. She distributed copies of the AAC&U LEAP Outcomes (which she said are incredibly general). The problem is that some courses can be very educational, but should not be designated as “credit-bearing.” She recommended using the 2009 Articulation Outcomes and Criteria from the Oregon JBAC group (now a part of the HECC) as a reference for looking at courses. Finally, she reviewed her own Policy proposal for identifying the credit-bearing co-curricular courses.

Discussion
Members wondered how co-curricular courses might be distinguished from electives? Military Science courses – would they be “co-curricular”? What about PE courses?

The Chair urged the Council members review the materials Lisa presented in preparation for the next Council meeting. Lisa will work on clarifying the question of elective courses and their relation to co-curricular courses.

The next UGC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 4, 2014 at 10:30am in the Collaboration Room of the Knight Library.