

University Senate Curricula and Courses Committee  
Minutes  
12:00pm Wednesday, 30 October 2013  
Senate Meeting Room

**Opening business**

- A. Meeting called to order at 12:07pm
- B. Welcome and introductions with Sally Reis
- C. Regrets: C. Cobb, D. McDonald, D. Mercier
- D. We will next meet on 20 November 2013

**Special Business (Moved up the agenda by prerogative of the Chair)**

- E. Comments by Vice Provost Sally Reis

VP Reis explained that currently students who start as freshman at UConn can transfer in up to 90 credits. A proposal to limit such students to 30 transfer credits (15 as GenEd) was presented at the Senate's previous meeting, for final consideration at its next meeting. It would only affect students who come in as freshmen; it would affect 80 students a year who transfer in more than 30. There was much discussion of the proposal at the Senate meeting. One concern was about students on financial aid, but the proposal does not affect Financial Aid students by and large; their financial aid does not cover courses taken over the summer, which is when students take most of their off-campus courses. Reis requested the support of the Senate C&C and asked members to speak out at the next Senate meeting. A second issue and future proposal would involve what to do about students who transfer in for their sophomore year. VP Reis indicated that they are currently gathering data and another proposal will likely be forthcoming.

*Discussion:* AP and ECE credits are considered UConn courses so would not be included in the 30 transfer credit limit. What about the Gen Ed restriction on transfer credits; what if a student wanted to take a language elsewhere because it was not offered at UConn? VP Reis said she believed that would qualify as an exception. At the end of the meeting, Chair Schultz asked the committee if they wanted to endorse the proposal. The committee elected to acknowledge that they reviewed the proposal and left the decision of whether to support the proposal to individuals.

VP Reis noted that there is a pilot experiment underway in CLAS to limits circumstances in which a student can repeat a course at UConn; there are currently about 1800 students repeating courses; this happens a lot with pre-med where students retake the courses to get higher grades even if they previously passed. Repeaters are permitted in this experiment to register only after first-time enrollees have had access to seats.

VP Reis explained that the university is currently trying to figure out enrollment patterns for the next few years in light of the NextGen initiative; she noted that a large influx of students was not an agreed-upon promise, and if the operating budget keeps going down, so will the number of students who are accepted at UConn. She noted that the funds are needed for new freshman

dorms (now called “residence halls” by younger generations) and to fix aging buildings on campus.

**(Opening Business Continued)**

- E. Minutes of the 16 October meeting were approved with one abstention
- F. Welcome to new undergraduate representative Lotaye Wright

**Report of the Chair/Representative**

- G. University Senate – Nothing to report
- H. GEOC  
GEOC discussed the University Senate proposal from Tom Recchio and tasked the W and CA1 committees to consider Freshman English as a routine part of their realignment review of English; GEOC is also preparing for the next Provost’s Competition, which has been in decline in recent years. The competition will focus on info/computer literacy, and Q, W, or CA3 courses this year.
- I. UICC  
UICC reviewed the Policy Manual draft that Chair Hedley Freake commissioned. The committee also discussed a suggestion by H. Freake that Study Abroad courses that come to UICC should be accredited as UNIV rather than INTD as they have been.
- J. Curriculum Advisory (“workflow”) group  
A Doodle poll has been sent and the group will meet soon.

**Other Committee Reports**

- K. Growth and Development Committee – Nothing to report
- L. Diversity  
R.H. Chinchilla reported that the group will meet with Provost Choi in November about the new SAAT and academic visioning program; the committee resolved to be more purposeful in promoting diversity at university since doing the minimum is not proving effective.
- M. Standing Honors Board  
D. Hanink reported that the committee discussed the development of syllabi and the need for instructors to maintain the integrity of honors courses. There is also a need for more honors courses, since there are more honors students than ever. It was noted that there are potential plans to build an honors dorm...er, residence hall.

**Old Business**

- N. Motion # **SENCC1314-33** (K. Labadorf, R.H. Chinchilla) The GEOC recommends revision of Content Area 1 criteria

*Overview*

Confusion with the last sentence of the proposal held up the Senate C&C review of this motion for several weeks, but issues have since been fixed.

*Proposed Language*

**Group One - Arts and Humanities**

**Definition of Arts and Humanities for General Education:**

Arts and Humanities courses should provide a broad vision of artistic and humanistic themes. Guided by trained and experienced artists, designers, musicians, playwrights, actors, writers and scholars, courses in Content Area 1 enable students to explore their place within the larger world so that they, as informed citizens, may participate more fully in the rich diversity of human values and practices. Education in the arts and humanities challenges students by introducing them to ideas rooted in evaluation, analysis, creative thought, ambiguity, and knowledge framed by process, context and experience.

The broadly-based Content Area 1 category of Arts and Humanities includes study in many different aspects of human endeavor. In areas traditionally included within the Arts, students explore modes of aesthetic, historical and social expression and inquiry in the visual arts, multimedia arts, the dramatic arts, music and/or analytical and creative forms of writing. Students come to appreciate diverse expressive forms, such as cultural or symbolic representations, belief systems, and/or communicative practices, and how they may change over time. In areas traditionally included within the Humanities, students engage in modes of inquiry relating to history, philosophy, communication, theology or culture.

**Criteria**

Courses appropriate to this category introduce students to and engage them in at least one of the following:

- Investigations and historical/critical analyses of human experience;
- Inquiries into philosophical and/or political theory;
- Investigations into cultural or symbolic representation as an explicit subject of study;
- Comprehension and appreciation of written, visual, multi-modal and/or performing art forms;
- Creation or reenactment of artistic works culminating in individual or group publication, production or performance.

Courses bearing 3 or more credits in this category must be supplemented by written, oral and/or performative analysis or criticism.

*Discussion*

D. Hanink asked if GEOC will be checking CA1 courses for compliance with the revised guidelines. The GEOC is currently enacting their course alignment project which does just this. No conflict is anticipated for past courses since the revised guidelines are designed to be more inclusive rather than less.

Motion **SENCC1314-33** passed.

**O.** Motion # **SENCC1314-32** Scholastic Standards motion on syllabi

*Overview*

E. Schultz made some additional edits to the original and revised versions. These were sent to Gerry Gianutsos with a request for next steps. The statement will be proposed as an addition to the "Miscellaneous" section of the Senate rules and regulations.

*Final Proposed Language*

Faculty shall provide a syllabus to students in their classes. The syllabus shall provide instructor contact information, course prerequisites, class meeting schedule, course materials, course learning objectives, assignments and assessments, grading scheme, and grading scale translating points earned into letter grades. Faculty shall prepare syllabi or individualized contracts for courses that do not convene in classes, such as independent study and internships. Contracts shall specify course goals and assessment of student performance, and shall be signed by the student, faculty supervisor, and if applicable, the field supervisor.

*Discussion*

K. Piantek questioned the term "letter grades," but the committee felt that S/U grades were covered under the term "letter grades." Syllabi can be used for Independent Studies; proposal was amended to indicate either a syllabus or contract might be used. In an issue related to contracts, every student who gets an Incomplete should have a contract with their instructor. A syllabus is technically a contract, just a broader/general contract between students and the university. The Senate C&C added language about "syllabi or individualized contracts" for courses that do not meet as a class.

Motion **SENCC1314-32** passed.

**Old Business**

**P.** MUSI 3421 Music in World Cultures [**SENCC1314-19**]

*Update*

Chair Schultz contacted the proposer regarding the following two issues: 1) Why a 3000-level course is not available for credit for students who have completed a 1000-level course, and 2) What provisions are being made for instruction of W students in the blended W and non-W course.

**New Business**

Q. New 1000- or 2000-level courses

1. Motion # **SENCC1314-34** (M. Buck, M. Darre) SOCI 2101 Sports and Society  
*Proposed Catalog Copy*

SOCI 2101. Sports and Society

Three credits. Open to sophomores or higher.

Sports as an institution and its impact on society. Gender, race, and class inequality in sports. Cultural, economic, political, and legal influences on sports at the professional, intercollegiate, scholastic, and recreational levels.

*Discussion*

It was noted that the syllabus needs a grading scale.

Motion **SENCC1314-34** passed.

2. Motion # **SENCC1314-35** (M. Buck, P. Bedore) URBN 2310Q Research Methods and Analysis in Urban and Community Studies

*Note: This course has been reviewed and approved for Q Competency by the General Education Oversight Committee.*

*Proposed Catalog Copy*

URBN 2301Q. Research Methods and Analysis in Urban and Community Studies

Three credits. Prerequisites: STAT 1000Q or 1100Q. Open to sophomores or higher.

An introduction to research methods and analysis techniques useful in understanding urban issues and assessing public and non-profit social programs.

*Discussion*

D. Hanink expressed concern about the course being offered only in the summer as a Gen Ed and URBN core course since students generally have no financial aid in the summer. E. Schultz asked if anyone saw this as a reason to interfere with approval of the course; the general committee consensus was no, the proposal can move forward with a message to the proposer regarding concerns.

Motion **SENCC1314-35** passed.

3. Motion # **SENCC1314-36** (D. Hanink, M. Darre) PHAR 1005 Molecules in the Media

*Note: This course has been reviewed and approved for CA3 Science and Technology (non-Lab) by the General Education Oversight Committee, but the subcommittee did have some concerns about whether non-majors would have an adequate level of preparation for the course.*

*Proposed Catalog Copy*

PHAR 1005. Molecules in the Media

Three Credits. Three 1 hr lecture periods. Not open to pharmacy students in the Professional Program.

Introduction to the fundamental concepts of chemistry and biology within the context of common molecules discussed in the media. Major topics include the structure and function of essential biological macromolecules, the mechanisms through which various

molecules regulate natural processes, and the design and development of synthetic small molecules as therapeutic agents.

*Discussion*

The topics might be less scientific than they appear as the course focuses on science through the lens of the media. descriptions in the syllabus made it sound like it was two different courses. Ultimately the Senate C&C decided that they trusted PHAR, and that any issues with the course's level would become apparent soon enough and could be dealt with in-house.

Motion **SENCC1314-36** passed.

Meeting adjourned at 1:35PM.

Attendees: Eric Schultz (Chair), Pamela Bedore, Marianne Buck, Kathleen Labadorf, Maria Ana O'Donoghue, Michael Darre, Dean Hanink, Jeffrey Ogbar, Cody Grant, Latoya Wright, Rosa Helena Chinchilla

Respectfully Submitted: Karen Piantek