

May 7, 2021

To: Faculty Senate

From: Susan Ginley, Chair, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

RE: 2020-21 Annual Report to Faculty Senate

Member Information

Chair: Susan Ginley (SpHr)

Members: Ingrid Anderson (C&I), Nike Arnold (Ling), Errin Beck (IELP), Peter Chaillé (PA), Jeff Gerwing (ESM), Courtney Hanson (GS), Shirley Jackson (Soc), Staci Martin (CYFS), Monica Mueller (PhI), Andrew Rice (Ph), Wanying (Eva) Shi, Andrew Tolmach (CS), Anwyn Willette (Mus), Kerry Wu (Lib), Belinda Zeidler (SPH)

Consultants: Andreen Morris (OAA), Pam Wagner (RO)

Charge of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

This committee shall consist of six Faculty members from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (two from each of its divisions); one Faculty member from each of the other divisions; and two students. Consultants shall include the following or their representatives: The Provost, the principal administrative officer with oversight of undergraduate studies, and a member of the Office of Institutional Research & Planning. The Committee shall:

- 1) Make recommendations, in light of existing policies and traditions, to the Senate concerning the approval of all new courses and undergraduate programs referred to it by divisional curriculum or other committees.
- 2) Coordinate with the Graduate Council to bring forward recommendations to the Senate regarding new proposals for and changes to 400/500-level courses so that decisions regarding both undergraduate and graduate credits can be made at the same Senate meeting.
- 3) Make recommendations to the Senate concerning substantive changes to existing programs and courses referred to it by other committees.
- 4) Review, at its own initiative or at the request of appropriate individuals or faculty committees, existing undergraduate programs and courses with regard to quality and emphasis. Suggest needed undergraduate program and course changes to the various divisions and departments.

- 5) Develop and recommend policies concerning curriculum at the University.
- 6) Act, in all matters pertaining to policy, in liaison with the chairpersons of appropriate committees.
- 7) Suggest and refer to the Senate, after consideration by the Academic Requirements Committee, modifications in the undergraduate degree requirements.
- 8) Advise the Senate concerning credit values of undergraduate courses.
- 9) Report on its activities at least once each year to the Senate, including a list of programs and courses reviewed and approved.

Curricular Proposals Reviewed

In the 2020-21 academic year the committee will have convened 14 times, on the dates shown below, to review program and course proposals and to discuss additional issues related to the charge of the committee.

Meeting Dates

Fall 2020	Winter 2021	Spring 2021
10/5/2020	1/11/2021	4/5/2021
10/19/2020	1/25/2021	4/19/2021
11/2/2020	2/8/2021	5/3/2021
11/16/2020	3/8/2021	5/17/2021
11/30/2020		6/7/2021

Number of Courses and Programs Reviewed

Type of Proposal	Count
New Degree Programs	0
New Certificate Program	1
New Minor	1
Changes to Existing Programs	21
New Prefix	1
Elimination of Existing Program	1
New Courses	73
Changes to Existing Courses	259
Drop Courses	29

Additional Activities Related to the Committee Charge

- Susan Ginley represented the UCC to develop a proposal for a race/ethnicity requirement for Portland State Undergraduates. The

work is ongoing, and a draft report was presented at the February 1, 2021 Faculty Senate meeting.

- Peter Chaillé represented the UCC on the Ad-Hoc Committee on Academic Program Reduction and Curricular Adjustments. The work is ongoing, and reports are included in the monthly Faculty Senate packets.
- Peter Chaillé, Belinda Zeidler, and Andreen Morris joined the ARC-UCC Joint Task Force on BA/BS Requirements. The report was presented at the March 1, 2021 Faculty Senate meeting.
- Provided feedback on two University Studies proposals.
- Provided feedback on current process of departments updating approved elective lists. UCC supports continuing the current process and do not request that these start coming through program change proposals. The flexibility for departments to update their approved elective lists reduces the need for DARS exceptions when the option can be applied to all students, and it also makes options transparent to all students--not just those who know to ask. It was also noted that OAA, RO, and the Grad School work together so that DARS and the catalog match and so that the changes are documented and we can look back and see what changed year-to-year. UCC felt that the current process reflects a culture in which serving students is at the forefront and represents collegial trust that departments and programs are making good decisions for their students. There was discussion that requiring program change proposals may harm collegiality by increasing competition and encouraging assumptions that departments and programs have nefarious intentions when updating their elective lists.

Recommendations for Future Work:

1. Holistic review of inclusive curriculum and pedagogy work across all programs and departments