Academic Requirements Committee (ARC)
2022-23 Annual Report   Date: May 10, 2023

Members 2022-23
Suwako Watanabe WLL, Chair
Brianna Avery HON
Steve Boyce MATH
Saori Clark ACS
Ari Douangpanya ACS
Laura Marsh ACS
Jane Mercer UNST
Vacant (Student Member)

Consultants: Rebecca Ingersoll ACS, Nicholas Matlick RO

Support Staff: Jill Borek

The Responsibilities of the Academic Requirements Committee are:
1) Develop and recommend policies regarding the admission of entering freshmen.
2) Develop and recommend policies regarding transfer credit and requirements for baccalaureate degrees.
3) Adjudicate student petitions regarding such academic regulations as credit loads, transfer credit, and graduation requirements for all undergraduate degree programs. Adjudicate student petitions regarding initial undergraduate admissions.
4) Make recommendations and propose changes in academic requirements to the Faculty Senate.
5) Report to the Senate at least once each year.
6) Act, in all matters pertaining to policy, in liaison with the chairpersons of the Scholastic Standards and Curriculum Committees, and with the chairperson of the Graduate Council.

The ARC met regularly (about twice per month) via Zoom from September 2022 through May 2023. We reviewed **136** petitions, of which **114** were approved (through May 08, 2023). The number of petitions has decreased from previous years when students were experiencing hardships because of the Covid-19 pandemic. The University Studies Cluster Requirement remained the most common focus of the petitions this year. The average turnaround time for petitions from submission to implementation has remained at 10 days, which is similar to previous years.

The Committee has been working with the student position vacant throughout this year. While we welcome a student perspective when we discuss changes and issues related to the University's academic requirements, which are often prompted by proposals to the Faculty Senate, a concern has been expressed regarding having a student when we review petitions because they often contain sensitive information. The Committee needs to address this issue when the student position is filled and a student actually attends the ARC meetings.

The committee wishes to thank Becki Ingersoll, Nicholas Matlick, and Jill Borek for their excellent support of our work.

Significant issues that we worked on:

Proposal to allow interdisciplinary majors to use "extra" courses from their major towards their Upper Division Cluster

We proposed that students majoring in Arts & Letters, Social Science, Science, and Urban & Public Affairs be allowed to use courses that are applicable to those majors to fulfill their Upper Division cluster instead of the major requirements. Students in those four particular majors often take Cluster courses in multiple disciplines within their broad major domain such as sociology, psychology, and anthropology for the Social Science and petition to lift the restriction to use a course in a particular major for the cluster requirement. The restriction narrowed the range of cluster course options for those interdisciplinary majors. Because of the interdisciplinary nature of the four majors, the ARC thought the mission of the Upper Division cluster requirement was met. We received support from the UNST Council, EPC, Budget Committee, and UCC. The proposal was passed at the Faculty Senate.

Proposal to change area distribution designation for Speech and Hearing Sciences courses
The ARC reviewed the courses that SPHS included in the proposal and concluded that most of the courses should be designated as social science and others science as indicated in their memo. We submitted the proposal, and it was passed at the Faculty Senate.

Proposal for the English language admission requirement for the Portland Institute Nanjing English Pathway program, Maseeh Engineering & Computer Science
The ARC received a request to review and submit a proposal for the Portland Institute Nanjing English Pathway program in the School of Maseeh Engineering & Computer Science regarding modification to the English proficiency admission requirement for international students in their program. The modification is similar to the IELP's Pathway program with a comparable standard built in their English program prior to transferring from China to PSU. With our support, the proposal was submitted and passed at the Faculty Senate.

Review of Proposal of the New Program of Major in Elementary Education
The ARC received a request to review a proposal for a new program of major in elementary education from the Curriculum and Instruction of College of Education. Because of the tight timeline for students to complete the major requirements, the initial plan was to waive the UD Cluster and Capstone requirements. The ARC requested to consult with the UNST Council, and they worked out incorporation of the UNST's missions and learning objectives enabling them to offer such courses to meet the UD Cluster and Capstone requirements. We supported the revised proposal, which was passed at the Faculty Senate.

Review of Proposal to allow transfer courses with "U" designation and allow students to petition to use transfer courses toward the Cluster Requirements

The ARC was requested to review a proposal to allow transfer courses with "U" designation and allow students to petition to apply transfer courses to meet the Cluster requirement which was sent by a subcommittee of the UNST Council. We supported the proposal with some minor revisions to the language to avoid ambiguity.

Review of Proposal to extend lowered GPA admission standard for two years

The ARC reviewed a proposal to extend the reduced GPA admission standard for two years with the Summer Bridge Program submitted by Shoshana Zeitsman-Pereyo, the Executive Director, Student Success Initiatives, and Erica Wagner, Vice Provost, Student Success. We recognized the effect of the Summer Bridge Program, and we concluded that the ARC should support the proposal. The proposal is expected to be on the agenda at the Faculty Senate in June 2023.

Review of Proposal to limit Study Abroad credits applied toward a degree to 45 credits

The Office of Education Abroad and the Registrar's Office submitted the proposal to limit the number of Study Abroad credits applied toward a degree to 45 credits. The ARC finds this limit to be reasonable as 45 credits are equivalent to one-year, i.e., a quarter of the minimum number of credits (180 credits) required to graduate. The ARC supported the proposal, and it was passed at the Faculty Senate.