

University Studies Council
2019-2020 Faculty Senate Report
 Prepared by Albert Spencer, Chair

Council Membership: Tim Anderson, Leslie Batchelder, Emma Britton, Lucas Clark, Jeff Conn, Aleksandar Jokic, Annie Knepler, Yves Labissiere, Amy Larson, Vicki Reitenauer, Amy Spring, Karen Strand, Rachel Webb, Kimberly Willson-St. Clair

Consultants: Rowanna Carpenter (University Studies Director of Assessment), Michael Lupro (Director of Sophomore Inquiry and Clusters), Óscar Fernandez (University Studies Diversity Coordinator), Linda George (Interim Executive Director of University Studies) Rick Lockwood (Awards Subcommittee Chair)

I. Curriculum

Additions

Course number	Course title	Cluster
ARH 333	Latin American Women Artists	Gender and Sexualities
ARH 355	Medieval Monsters	Popular Culture
ARH 379	Latin American Baroque Art and Architecture	Interpreting the Past
BA 332	Property, Management, and Society	Community Studies
BST 412U	Oregon African American History	American Identities
BST 484U	African American Community Development	American Identities
CFS 386	Youth Healthy Relationships and Sexuality Education	Families and Society
ENG 310	Children's Literature	Families and Society
ENG 325U	Postcolonial Literature	Gender and Sexualities
ENG 360	American Lit and Culture I	Interpreting the Past
ENG 369U	Asian American Literature	Gender and Sexualities
ENG/BST 351U	African American Lit	Gender and Sexualities
ENG/BST 352U	African American Lit II	Gender and Sexualities
FIN 301	Stock Market Investing	Design Thinking
INTL 349	Gender and Development	Gender and Sexualities
LING 332	"Do I Speak Wrong?": Language Myths in the USA	American Identities
LING 334	"You have the right to remain silent.": Language and the Law	Freedom Privacy Technology
PHL 312U	Feminist Philosophy	Knowledge Values Rationality
SCI 399	Green Roof Biomonitoring and Eco-design	Science in Social Context
WLL/ENG 383	Topics in Comparative Lit, Film, and Comics	Popular Culture
WLL/ENG 383	Topics in Comparative Lit, Film, and Comics	Global Perspectives

Removals

Course number	Course title	Cluster
BST 420U	Caribbean Literature	Global Perspectives
BST 412U	Oregon African American History	American Identities
BST 484U	African American Community Development	American Identities

II. Program

A. The Council has continued to support assessment of the revised Diversity Equity and Social Justice Goal and the development of a rubric for the revised Ethics, Agency, and Community Goal.

B. At the end of AY 18-19, a new subcommittee was formed to revise UNST's Communication Goal. At our November 2019 meeting, the subcommittee recommended the division of the goal into two separate goals: one that focuses on UNST's writing expectations and an other than outlines our expectations with regards to quantitative literacy. The subcommittees were on track to host symposiums with UNST instructors and other stakeholders in order to inform these revisions during the Spring term, which were unfortunately cancelled due to the pandemic. Since there is no urgent need for these revisions, the Council decided to postpone this revision until public discussion can safely resume. It will be among our agenda items for our first meeting in the Fall.

C. The Council has continued to recognize UNST instructors through our Awards for Teaching Excellence which will be presented at the UNST End of the Year Party this Thursday (6/4). We are proud of our member's work to maintain this tradition during challenging times and want to recognize all UNST and PSU faculty for making the rapid transition to distance learning. In particular, the Council Chair would like to recognize Richard Lockwood from the PSU School of Community Health. Richard was among the Council members who originally organized these awards and in order to maintain continuity Richard continued as an ex officio member of the Council in order to oversee the process.

D. The Council is enthusiastic with the results of Executive Director, Linda George, and Director of Assessment & Upper Division Clusters, Rowanna Carpenter, initiative to coordinate a review of UNST and outreach to publicize its high impact practices among the campus community. Tentatively titled the UNST Roadshow, the Council received a preview of their findings at our last in person meeting (February 14th). While they will not be able to begin the outreach phase of their project until normal operations resume, their review did highlight key areas of program success, such as high graduation rates for minority students who complete FRINQ and increased retention rates for all students who complete SINQ courses. Likewise, they diagnosed areas for improvement, such as the encouragement of more high impact practices at the Junior Cluster level and the need to better advise students on the role of Junior Cluster courses with the general education curriculum. Fortunately, they were able to present these findings to department chairs before the shutdown and they will be on the Council's agenda for our first meeting in AY 20-21.

E. The Council supported the Executive Director's recommendation to add Junior Cluster titles to student transcripts beginning next year (AY 20-21). This will hopefully increase our graduates success on the job market by more clearly representing the knowledge and skills gained by that component of the general education curriculum.

F. The Council supported the Executive Director's recommendation to revise the UNST Requirements for Senior Transfer Students (Transfer students 135+ credits). While triggered by the spike in transfers due to multiple recent closures in the Portland area (Concordia '20, Oregon College of Art & Craft '19, Art Institute of Portland '18, and Marylhurst '18) and in anticipation of increased OUS transfers due to COVID-19, the requirements had not been reviewed in recent memory and did not make any significant distinctions between Juniors (transfers with 90+ credits) and Seniors (transfers with 135+ credits). This revision should alleviate the financial and curricular burdens of transfers already coping with a major disruption to their education and

degree completion. By placing students first, PSU will continue to serve as a safe place to land during these complicated and uncertain times. Likewise, this policy revision will unburdened the PSU Staff and Faculty who have been coping with this influx, such as the Registrar's Office, Advising & Career Services, and the Academic Requirement Committee all of whom notified the Council of this pressing need and support the revision of these requirements.