

A regular meeting of the University Curriculum Committee was held on December 13, 2013, at 2:00 p.m.

Members present: Chair Carole Makela, Professors Bradley Goetz, Paul Mallette, Patrick Fitzhorn, Nancy Jianakoplos, Paul Meiman, Steve Strauss, Howard Ramsdell, Michelle Wilde, and Kathleen Pickering (ex-officio).

Absent: Andrew Bondi, Sam Guinn.

Guests: Fiona Bright, Kelley Brundage, Petra Marlin, and Linda Selkirk.

Minutes

The minutes of December 6, 2013, were approved.

Curriculum and Catalog Website Announcement

Tom Hoehn announced the BETA Curriculum and Catalog website is available for review and comment. UCC suggested enhancements to make the site easier to use. Tom will send out notice to the Curriculum listserv for review and comment.

Special Academic Unit Announcement

Tom Hoehn reviewed the Special Academic Unit, SAU, approval timeline required to meet the July 1, 2014 effective date. It was noted that all Special Academic Unit proposals need the Committee on Scholarship, Research, and Graduate Education (CoSRGE) and the Committee on Faculty Governance approvals.

Consistency of CSU credit requirements for minors and interdisciplinary minor

The committee discussed if taking credits at CSU should be necessary for any minor or interdisciplinary minor awarded by CSU. At this time a student can receive an approved CSU minor by transferring credits from another institution without taking any courses at CSU. Several colleges want a credit minimum requirement because CSU is the granting institution of the credential and they believe CSU should deliver at least some of the credential. Some members suggested the department could require students take a portion of the credential by not granting transfer credit for some of the minor and interdisciplinary upper division courses. Carole Makela suggested UCC consider a university wide policy that allows the unit responsible for the minor to deny admittance to the minor if the student completes less than 6 upper division credits at CSU. Kelley Brundage would have to complete an analysis to determine how many students would be affected by the suggested policy. Patrick Fitzhorn requested UCC state why residency requirements are needed for minors. The committee will look at specific motions to bring forward to Faculty Council in January.

Undergraduate English testing

Petra Marlin, from the Admissions office discussed a proposal to include the Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic) exam as a recognized test to determine English proficiency for undergraduate admission. Petra noted the Admissions Office does not receive many requests from students because the test is perceived as being harder than the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or the IELTS (International English Language Testing Service) exams.

A motion to add the Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic) exam to the list of options for undergraduates to indicate their level of English proficiency was approved. Changes to the Undergraduate Admissions Policies and Procedures catalog copy will be considered by UCC at a future meeting.

Cambridge Pre-U Examination

UCC members discussed proposed catalog language adding the new Cambridge Pre-U examination type under the Test Credit (AP – Advanced Placement, IB – International Baccalaureate, A/AS Level, CLEP & DSST/DANTES) Language category.

The committee approved the following catalog insertion to section 1.3 Undergraduate Admissions Policies and Procedures, page 5 after the International Baccalaureate section and before For Non-High School Graduates.

Cambridge Pre-U Exam

The Cambridge Pre-U examination is a United Kingdom qualification from the University of Cambridge International Examinations and is an alternative to the current A Level qualification. This exam consists of "Principal Subjects" of which students have a free choice of three of 27 subject options. Additional subjects may be taken and possibly considered for credit but are not incorporated into the Cambridge Pre-U Diploma. Those students who complete an "Independent Research Project" and a "Global Perspectives" portfolio along with the 3 "Principal Subjects" options are eligible for the award of the Cambridge Pre-U Diploma. There are additional "short course" options consisting of one year's study, available in Modern Foreign Languages and Mathematics.

The 'Global Perspectives and Research Report' (GPR) may also be considered for credit on a case by case basis.

Credits may be used toward the 120 credit minimum requirement for graduation and may be used toward general education (All University Core Curriculum) requirements. Scores of D1-D3, M1-M3 and P1-P3 will be considered for credit as they are equivalent to a "C" or better grade. A MAXIMUM of 36.0 semester hours may be awarded for Cambridge Pre-U exams.

The academic department responsible for the course in which test credit is granted will determine what equivalency will be awarded. The determination by the department of an equivalency for an exam will be a final decision and cannot be re-evaluated or appealed.

Certificates

The committee reviewed the updated DRAFT Graduate Certificate Policy submitted by the Graduate School. Carole Makela suggested UCC consider how the DRAFT Graduate Certificates Policy may be applicable to undergraduate certificates. Patrick Fitzhorn noted that other four year institutions use the name "certificate" to describe their programs but CSU could not use the name. Kathy Pickering will follow up with the Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE) for clarification about the use the word "Certificate" at the undergraduate level.

Paul Mallette suggested the name "Focused Area of Study" for the undergraduate "Certificates". The discussion included how exclusionary statements should be used to prevent transcript inflation. It would be the responsibility of the originating department's proposal to declare who is the target group and pertinent exclusionary statements for their Focused Area of Study.

The criteria of Focused Area of Study will require a code to appear on the transcript. The committee agreed: 1) A Focused Area of Study is between 9-16 credits, 2) Students must be admitted to a program to register for a Focused Area of Study, 3) Focused Areas of Study may be taken within a major, as long as there are choices of Focused Areas for students to select from, or without a major as determined by the approved Focused Area of Study proposal, 4) There is a minimum 2.000 GPA required for the required courses in the Focused Area of Study.

Kathy Pickering will present the results of her "Certificate" discussion with CDHE at a future UCC meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.