UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING
March 7, 2011
Collaboration Room, Knight Library

PRESENT
Susan Anderson, Andrew Bonamici, Ron Bramhall, Kathie Carpenter, Sue Eveland, Dave Hubin, Jennifer Joslin, Dean Livelybrooks, Karen McLaughlin, Ian McNeely, Karen Sprague, Gail Unruh, and Matt Villeneuve

ABSENT
Eric Carlson, Amy Goeser Kolb, Josh Snodgrass, Drew Terhune, Jim Tice, Tom Wheeler (on leave), Paul Engelking, and Judith Baskin and Julie Hessler

AGENDA
I. Approve minutes from Feb. 21 meeting
II. Approve revision to Philosophy major
III. Prepare for March 9 UO Senate meeting on grade culture
IV. Update from Karen on Course Connector project

MINUTES

I. APPROVING MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 21, 2011 MEETING
The minutes from the February 21st meeting were not ready for review or vote. They will be distributed for approval at the first meeting of the Spring Term.

II. PHILOSOPHY MAJOR REVISION UPDATE
The Chair recapped the Council’s previous discussion of the proposed change in the Philosophy BS degree, which substituted a science minor in for a science major. The Council had responded that these requirements for the BS, though reduced, were still outside the University norm. After further consideration, the Philosophy Department decided that they want to adopt the University’s distinction between the BA and BS degree requirements, viz. the foreign language requirement for a BA and the mathematics requirement for a BS. Eventually, perhaps as early as next year, they may submit a proposal for science as a track or concentration within their major.
The motion was made that the Undergraduate Council endorse a change in the requirements for the BA and BS in Philosophy to be realigned to match the university distinctions between the two degrees.

Moved: Dean Livelybrooks
Seconded: Karen McLaughlin

The motion passed unanimously.

Sue Eveland noted that usually these changes are not effective until the Fall term. The department wants to make this change effective this Spring term. Exceptions will be made for students graduating this Spring and the change will be official for Fall 2011. The Chair noted there still needs to be clarification in BA/BS distinctions in general at a future time.

Discussion
Council members continued to discuss the reality that the university distinctions for a BA and a BS do not necessarily align with the requirements of majors. These are two separate issues and they are not necessarily mutually exclusive. Examples cited are: BS in English; BA in Biology. A separate idea is shaping the General Education coursework, beyond math and language, for students in particular majors. This topic needs further consideration.

III. MARCH 9 SENATE MEETING
The Chair announced that the Senate will be meeting Wednesday, March 9 at 3:40 – 4:20pm in the Jaqua Center where the UGC Proposal on Changing Grade Culture will be presented. Faculty members from the Council will attend. The Senate meeting will be streamed online. The proposal will be voted on at the April 13 Senate meeting. The Council discussed how much time would be allotted for discussion of each of the motions in the proposal. A few minor clarifications of the wording of 11b. and 11c. in the proposal were discussed.

IV. WRITING COURSE DISCUSSIONS
Karen Sprague reported her consultations with First Year Programs and the Composition Program on the subject of linking writing classes to specific courses. FIG themes that emerged were:

– What makes us human?
– What is sustainability?
– Modern media: the end of solitude?
– Is Oregon global?
Carolyn Bergquist of the Composition Program was enthusiastic about these themes and felt they could work well for writing classes in the Winter 2012 and Spring 2012 terms. They would be offered for all students interested in the topics. Karen is optimistic that these can be offered successfully. Karen McLaughlin noted that we need to work on developing a writing culture on campus because, in her experience, students think that writing for “regular” courses is different from what they do in writing classes. They think that the quality of writing in regular courses should not be judged. The alphabetical prioritization for enrollment for Writing 121 will not be an impediment to filling thematic writing courses. It is not a hard and fast rule.

V. COURSE CONNECTOR PROJECT

Karen Sprague demonstrated and presented an update on the status of the Course Connector Project undertaken between Undergraduate Studies and Information Services. The project is to create a website for each Group-satisfying General Education course, which will contain graphics, syllabi, and other material related to the course. The collection of these sites will be accessible from the UO homepage and from the DuckWeb Course Registration site. Right now there is just one undergraduate student, Drew Terhune, working on uploading current course descriptions to the site. Once the project is launched, faculty will be able to enter the site and update their own courses. The plan is to launch this site by July for use during the summer Orientation program (IntroDUCKtion).

Sue Eveland discussed some of the technical issues involved with linking the Course Connector with DuckWeb. So far, the link has not been made. A designated coordinator may be necessary to manage the data exchange and to monitor and keep the Course Connector site up-to-date. Also, it is important to work with the IT department to make sure the Course Connector can be linked to Banner.

Discussion ensued as to centralizing a collection of course syllabi that could be linked and synchronized with the various sites (Duckweb, Blackboard, Department homepages, Department course lists, Course Catalog, etc.) The official description of offered courses is in the Course Catalog. A goal of the Course Connector Project is to serve as a repository for syllabi. The Council agreed that the Project will be very helpful to students as they select courses. It would not even have to be linked immediately to Banner. It could link to department portals and help departments promote their courses.

The meeting adjourned.

The next Undergraduate Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 4, 2011, 12:00 noon in the Collaboration Room of the Knight Library.