UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING
April 24, 2008
Rowe Conference Room, Knight Library

Present:
Gavin Bruce, Herb Chereck, Dave Hubin, Anne Laskaya, Andrew Leavitt, Dean Livelybrooks, Alexandra Marcus, Steven Pologe, Karen McLaughlin, Ron Severson, Karen Sprague, Arkady Vaintrob, Alan Kimball, Paul Engelking, and Jim Imamura

Absent:
Andrew Bonamici, Elizabeth Jarvis, Hilary Gerdes, Kate Wagle, Malcolm Wilson, Bill Rossi, and Elizabeth Reis

Guests:
Kathy Poole, Director, Overseas Study Program, International Affairs
Cari Vanderkar, Associate Director, Overseas Study Program, International Affairs

Announcements:
The Chair previewed the meeting agenda and noted that a proposal from the Registrar’s Office on the handling of Group-satisfying courses that lacked expanded course descriptions was an added item for discussion.

Minutes:
Due to a late distribution of the minutes from the April 10, 2008 meeting, the Council was not prepared to vote on accepting the minutes at that time.

The motion was made to accept any amendment to the minutes from the April 10, 2008 meeting via e-mail communications to be completed by Wednesday, April 30. After that date, if no amendments were received, the minutes would be accepted for the record.

Moved: Dean Livelybrooks
Seconded: Alan Kimball

The motion to accept the minutes via an e-mail process passed unanimously.
Reviewing Proposals for New Programs:
The Chair briefly discussed the Council’s role in reviewing proposals for new programs. The review process is being clarified and modified in Academic Affairs by the Provost, the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, the Vice Provost for Graduate Studies, the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies, and the Assistant Vice Provost for Academic Affairs. The Council representative from the CAS Curriculum Committee reported that CAS will be forwarding proposals in five areas –COLT, Queer Studies, Film Studies, Latin American Studies, and European Studies.

The Chair reported that only two proposals (COLT and Queer Studies) have been received by the Undergraduate Council and that nothing urgent had been heard of regarding either program. He had already discussed the COLT proposal with the Director of the program, who had agreed on the lack of urgency. Since the Council is working hard to complete its review of the Multicultural requirement and to formulate recommendations, the Chair suggested that work on program proposals be delayed. The Chair noted further that delay will allow the newly-clarified review process to be used, which should expedite the work.

Introductions:
The Chair introduced Kathy Poole, Director for Overseas Studies and Cari Vanderkar, Assistant Director for Overseas Studies in International Affairs. They had submitted a proposal to the Council in April 2007 regarding Multicultural requirement fulfillment through the Studies Abroad Program. Since their proposal was germane to the Multicultural course review, the Council had decided to include it during its discussion of the general recommendations emerging from the review. International Affairs had agreed to postpone consideration of the proposal accordingly.

Agenda
How Study Abroad Programs could count toward the IC Multicultural requirement
Kathy Poole summarized the proposal. Primarily, it asks that Study Abroad programs be allowed to count as one course satisfying the Multicultural requirement. Kathy pointed out that the proposal is in line with the way Multicultural requirements may be met at other institutions throughout the country. The combination of academic study and cultural immersion which comprise a Study Abroad program can create an experience the University seeks for its students through the IC Multicultural requirement. Research shows that there are sustained effects of Study Abroad programs, often many years after the experience.

The Council asked several questions about the proposal:

- **Discussion**
  - Is Canada considered a “foreign” culture?
  - Are faculty involved in identifying qualifying experiences?
  - Are there times when we would say “No,” an experience does not count?
  - How many students would be affected by this proposal?

In response to the Council’s queries, Kathy and Cary said that English-speaking countries outside of the United States (such as England, Australia, and New Zealand, as well as Canada) are considered “foreign” countries because their cultures are distinct from U.S. culture—and from each other’s— even though they all share English as their language.

They also explained that the programs selected to qualify as fulfilling the MC requirement under this proposal must meet very specific criteria, which are by the Foreign Studies Program Committee which is composed of University faculty and International Affairs staff. This committee provides the oversight for rigorous academic content as well as cultural immersion in the qualifying programs. Proposals for the Study Abroad Programs originate from faculty, from reciprocal institutional exchanges, and
from partnership programs. Kathy also pointed out that about 1000 UO students enroll in a Study Abroad Program, and that many of these would use it to count toward the Multicultural requirement course in the International Cultures category.

After Kathy Poole and Cari Vanderkar concluded their presentation and left, the Council briefly discussed the proposal. There was general support for the proposal and the oversight of the Foreign Studies Program Committee allayed most concerns on the part of the Council. Paul Engelking said that if the Council could take action on the proposal, it could be inserted into the COC report to the Senate for the May 14 meeting and could thus be ready for implementation for Fall 2008.

The Chair asked for a motion from the floor.

The motion was made that the Undergraduate Council accept the proposal from International Affairs that a Study Abroad program satisfy one course of the Multicultural requirement in the International Cultures category (C). The Foreign Studies Program Committee will confirm that the standards of Category C are met by the Study Abroad programs they approve for this purpose.

Moved: Dean Livelybrooks
Seconded: Anne Laskaya
The motion passed unanimously.

(See: Approval of Proposal to Allow Study Abroad as a Means of Fulfilling International Cultures Requirement)

Group-satisfying Expanded Course Descriptions
Herb Chereck submitted to the Council a list of Group-satisfying courses that still do not have expanded course descriptions posted in the Class Schedule. He proposed that the Registrar submit the list to the ICGER Committee, which would then remove the Group-satisfying designation from courses that still lacked an expanded course description. The Council unanimously endorsed this action.
The meeting was adjourned.

The next UGC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 8, 2008, 12:30pm at Rowe Conference Room, the Knight Library.