UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING
May 22, 2008
Rowe Conference Room, Knight Library

Present:
Andrew Bonamici, Herb Chereck, Hilary Gerdes, Andrew Leavitt, Dean Livelybrooks, Alexandra Marcus, Steven Pologe, Ron Severson, Karen Sprague, Arkady Vaintrob, Bill Rossi, Paul Engelking, and Jim Imamura

Absent:
Gavin Bruce, Dave Hubin, Elizabeth Jarvis, Anne Laskaya, Karen McLaughlin, Kate Wagle, Malcolm Wilson, Alan Kimball, and Elizabeth Reis

Minutes:
The motion was made to accept the minutes from the April 24 and May 8, 2008 meetings.

Moved: Dean Livelybrooks
Seconded: Steven Pologe
With a correction in the attendance roster at the April 24, 2008 meeting, the motion to accept the minutes passed unanimously.

Agenda
Motion on Topics Courses
The Chair proposed that the Council draft a motion on Topics Courses designated as satisfying the Multicultural requirement. Council members discussed the proposed motion. After discussion, a small group was appointed to present a draft motion for further discussion at the next meeting.

Proposal to Revise the COLT Major
The Council discussed whether or not the program proposal submitted for review by the Comparative Literature Program was a new program or a revised program. The Council concluded that the proposal was a program revision.
A proposal pending from the Queer Studies program, however, is a new program and will require more time for review. The Council will take up the Queer Studies program in the Fall.

The UO Committee on Courses representative was invited to comment on the COC’s review of the COLT proposal. The COC determined that the intent of the proposal was to expand the scope of the COLT major beyond the traditional emphasis on French, Spanish, and Italian. Additionally, the proposal attempts to expand the disciplinary areas within the major and to streamline the core courses of the program. The Committee on Courses had asked for clarification of course titles and course descriptions.

The Undergraduate Council members discussed other observations about the proposal:

- There seems to be a shift from the study of literature to a study of culture.
- Is studying equivalent to “studying text”? There is a strong precedent for including film studies since film as text has been taught in COLT as far back as ~1960.
- “Disciplines in Dialogue” seems very wide open since any discipline can be paired with language and literature. Thus, it resembles an individualized study program. The Council agreed that it is up to department advising to ensure the rigor in such an individualized program.

The Council was generally in favor of the COLT program proposal. The Chair called for a motion.

**The motion was made that the Undergraduate Council endorse the COLT proposal to change the structure of its Major without comment.**

Moved: Bill Rossi  
Seconded: Paul Engelking  
The motion passed unanimously.

The proposal with the Undergraduate Council’s endorsement will be forwarded to Academic Affairs.
Multicultural Requirements at 400-Level
(See: General Issues Regarding Multicultural Requirement)

The UO Committee on Courses would prefer that General Education courses, including Multicultural courses, be offered at the 100-, 200-, or 300-level rather than the 400-level. The COC feels that General Education courses at the 400-level tend to scare off students and may have pre-requisites that exclude students other than majors. Therefore, the COC is encouraging departments to offer their 400-level General Education courses at the 300-level, instead. This will make the courses accessible to more students and will reduce the likelihood that students will limit their Multicultural coursework to their major.

Some members of the UGC felt that 400-level General Education courses tend to attract highly motivated students. They also pointed out that the Multicultural requirement is not identical to Group-satisfying requirement in the General Education curriculum. Although Multicultural courses were initially viewed as introductory courses, they have evolved over time and now serve an additional purpose of allowing students to apply multicultural perspectives to their intended careers or professions.

Discussion on the Multicultural requirement will be continued at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next UGC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 5, 2008, 12:30pm at the Moore Dining Hall in the Bean Complex.