UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING
January 15, 2009
Rowe Conference Room, Knight Library

Present:
Andrew Bonamici, Sue Eveland, Lisa Feldhusen, Amy Goeser Kolb, Dave Hubin, Dean Livelybrooks, Ian McNeely, Caleb Owen, Ron Severson, Josh Snodgrass, Laura Vandenberg, Trudy Cameron, and Elizabeth Reis

Absent:
Sean Jin, Jennifer Joslin, Anne Laskaya, Andrew Leavitt, Karen McLaughlin, Karen Sprague, Arkady Vaintrob, Tom Wheeler, Morgan Williamson, and Paul Engelking

Guests:
Kathleen Karlyn, Associate Professor, Department of English;
Michael Aronson, Assistant Professor, Department of English;
Craig Parsons, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science;
Julie Newton, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Affairs and Professor, School of Journalism and Communication;
Gregory Kerber, Assistant Dean for Student Services, School of Journalism and Communication

The meeting was convened and called to order by Ian McNeely.

Minutes:
The minutes had been distributed to the Undergraduate Council electronically prior to the current meeting. Some technical corrections had been submitted and had been made in the minutes.

The motion was made to accept the minutes from the December 2, 2008 meeting as amended.

Moved: Laura Vandenberg
Seconded: Josh Snodgrass
The motion to accept the minutes passed unanimously.

Agenda
Proposal for a Major (B.A.) in Cinema Studies
[ CinemaStudies_TransLetter Winter08; Cinema Studies_transmittal letter - 11-12-2008; Cinema_Studies_Major_proposal 1_09_revperUGC; Revised Cinema Studies CoursePlan; Cinema_Studies_MAJOR_SUPPORT_LETTERS; Cinema Studies Oregon Film & Video Office support letter; Cinema Studies Warner Bros support letter ]
Ian introduced Kathleen Karlyn, Associate Professor in the English Department, and Michael Aronson, Assistant Professor in the English Department, to present a proposal to establish a joint bachelors degree program in Cinema Studies across units. The program will be administered by a program director and an executive committee appointed jointly by the Deans of CAS, SOJC and AAA. The CAS Dean will be ultimately responsible for program oversight.

Kathleen Karlyn briefly recounted the history of the development of the proposal. She noted that the proposed degree program would be the only major program in cinema studies on the West Coast between the Bay area and Canada. The proposal is generally based on the current Undergraduate Certificate in Film Studies, which was established in 2000. The principal difference between the Certificate and the proposed degree program is that the Certificate lacks a study component in film production.

In 2006, work on the proposal for a degree program in cinema studies began in earnest with a critical mass of faculty and students in CAS, SOJC and AAA wanting such a major. As an interdisciplinary major, the degree would be supported by the Library on the production component by providing space for a production laboratory.

The degree program is seen as an opportunity to move UO into a future direction as outlined under the new Academic Plan being developed. Cinema Studies is part of the movement to examine new media, digital culture and screen technologies as their impact moves across disciplines. The proposal has received strong support from the Provost.

Council members inquired to what extent the program was derivative and to what extent it was groundbreaking. Michael Aronson explained that Cinema Studies was relatively new as an academic discipline. The subject has become more consolidated and an intellectual basis has developed over the last 50-60 years. However, there is a distinct difference between philosophy in film and the philosophy of film. This program brings disciplinary rigor to the study of the use of film as media. The program is particularly interested in international film, with a unique emphasis on the Pacific Rim cinema.

Other questions were asked of the presenters:

- What is the demand for this major in relation to funding?
  - the program will start at $150k and is projected to move towards $750k within three years; starting enrollment is expected to be 25 majors in the first year with an addition of 25 majors each succeeding year. The Provost and the Deans of CAS, SOJC and AAA have pledged to support the program for three years. This will enable the program to become self-sustaining within the next three years (under the new fiscal model), with the support of private donors, and with anticipated gift funding through Technology Endowment funds. The geographic gap in the discipline will also help feed majors into the program (such as
attracting students from Idaho where there is no program in Cinema Studies).

- How will the program be evaluated? What data will be used?  
  -right now, evaluation of the program is principally just “word of mouth”; there is no external institutional or professional evaluation or accreditation in the film industry for programs of this nature. The executive committee for the program will explore a more structured evaluation process internally. One thing the committee is working on is setting up an external professional advisory group. Perhaps this could become an evaluative body. The committee is also looking at developing a formal internship program for Cinema Studies majors.

- What comprises the “Honors Project” in the major?  
  -the Honors Project does not necessarily have to be a film. There are a range of possibilities for Honors Projects: screen script; critical analysis of some aspect of film; historical perspective of film; etc. The Council suggested that these should be more clearly specified in the proposal.

- What are the courses in the Core Curriculum?  
  -the Council advised that these need to be stated explicitly so expectations for the major are clear.

- How is advising for this major handled?  
  -advising is already done for the Certificate Program by the Associate Director of the Cinema Studies Program. This will continue for majors in Cinema Studies.

- What are the admission requirements for the major? Is there a pre-major?  
  -there is no pre-major for the program. Students would be designated as undeclared while taking the Fundamental courses of the major. It was noted by the Council that with the new funding model, there is a need to clarify student status. At this time, undeclared students fall under CAS. The current Cinema Studies program structure also reports to CAS.

- What is the CIP code for the proposed program?  
  -the Council advised that a CIP code from the Registrar’s Office needs to be added to the proposal.

After Kathleen and Michael finished their presentation, the Council took up discussion of the proposal.
• Discussion
  The Undergraduate Council was in general agreement on submitting an endorsement for the proposal. The Convener called for a motion.

  The motion was made that the Undergraduate Council endorse the proposal for the establishment of a Cinema Studies major.
  Moved: Ron Severson
  Seconded: Elizabeth Reis
  The motion passed unanimously. [Proposal to Establish Cinema_Studies_Major]

Ian McNeely will communicate the Council’s endorsement to the presenters.

Proposal for the initiation of a new instructional program leading to a minor in European Studies
[European_Studies_Minor_Transmit_letter; European_Studies_Minor_Synopsis; European_Studies_Minor_proposal_FINAL; European_Studies_Minor_Budget_Review]

Craig Parsons, Associate Professor from the Department of History, was introduced to the Council by the Convener. Prof. Parsons appearance was to address questions raised by the Council during an earlier discussion of the proposal at the December 2, 2008 Undergraduate Council meeting.

Craig explained that a primary reason for establishing the minor as a replacement for the current Certificate in European Studies program is that there is confusion as to what a certificate actually is. The designation of “minor” in European Studies would be more comprehensible on a transcript and may also help to boost enrollment.

In response to the earlier questions raised by the Council, the proposal has been modified to add the qualification that the three required courses will be taken outside of the European Studies area.

The Council discussed with Prof. Parsons the designation of some history courses as “social science courses” or “humanities courses.” He explained that there is not a well-defined rubric for making this distinction; essentially, professors are allowed to self-label their courses. There are not many “Europeanists” in the social sciences; there are more courses in European humanities. It might enhance the proposal to specify that one of the required Social Science courses for the minor is not to be a history course.
The Council additionally noted that the proposal needs to identify the areas where there may be a dearth of courses; the faculty list in the proposal also needs to be updated.

Craig Parsons explained the organization of the Capstone Course Project for the minor. The Capstone Project is organized by faculty members from History, Romance Languages, and Political Science. Cross-disciplinary lectures are presented on the “Idea of Europe.” Students are given free-form assignments which will generally be in the form of response papers to the lectures. Students will write a final research paper from the perspective of one of the three disciplinary areas in the minor (History, Romance Languages, or Political Science).

Finally, the Council pointed that the proposal needed to specify the residency requirement for the minor (12 credits).

Following the discussion, the Convener called for a motion.

**The motion was made that the Undergraduate Council endorse the proposal for the establishment of a European Studies minor to replace the Certificate in European Studies program, with the changes noted during the discussion.**

- **Moved:** Ron Severson
- **Seconded:** Laura Vandenburgh
- **The motion passed with 9 “Yea”s and 1 abstention.**

Ian McNeely will communicate the Council’s endorsement to the presenter.

**Proposal for Curriculum Revision for Pre-Major Core and Undergraduate Majors in the School of Journalism and Communication**

Julie Newton, and Greg Kerber, of the School of Journalism and Communication were introduced. They presented a proposal for a curriculum revision for the Pre-major program and Undergraduate Majors in SOJC.

Julie Newton explained that the modification in the curriculum had been developing over the past 3 years. The changes were spurred by the exponential development of media. The major focus of the proposed changes is:

- to provide more flexibility and integration in the curriculum across media platforms;
- to provide better tracking of students and majors;
- to provide greater emphasis on core content and less focus on medium.

Premajor core courses have been streamlined to enable students to move more quickly into the core courses for the majors. Majors have been consolidated into four areas (Journalism, Public Relations, Advertising, and Communication Studies) rather
than the current three distinct majors in Journalism itself (News Ed, Magazine and Electronic Media).

A new 12–credit Gateway to Media course will integrate information gathering, writing and visual communication will be offered in the Majors curriculum. These integrated courses will build on one another to develop habits of mind. Required student portfolios will begin in the Gateway to Media course and continue throughout the courses in the majors.

Council members had a concern that by increasing the major credits, the opportunity for students to explore outside the major was diminished. Greg Kerber responded that a minor in another discipline may be a requirement in the future. However, Students already typically take 60 credit hours outside their major area in SOJC. Greg also said that under the old curriculum, it takes three terms, at a minimum, to qualify as a SOJC major. Under the proposed new curriculum design, this will be reduced to one term to qualify as a SOJC major.

Julie noted that the school will be following the pilot group (Winter 2009 Transfer students) for the new curriculum with assessment strategies.

The budget impact of the new curriculum will be resource neutral.

The Council decided to take up a discussion of the SOJC proposal at its next meeting. The meeting was adjourned.

The next UGC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 29, 2009, 8:30am at Rowe Conference Room, the Knight Library.