**UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING**
April 21, 2009
Johnson Hall Conference Room

**Present:**
Amy Goeser Kolb, Dave Hubin, Sean Jin, Jennifer Joslin, Anne Laskaya, Andrew Leavitt, Dean Livelybrooks, Karen McLaughlin, Ian McNeely, Caleb Owen, Josh Snodgrass, Karen Sprague, Arkady Vaintrob, Laura Vandenburgh, Tom Wheeler, and Trudy Cameron

**Absent:**
Andrew Bonamici, Sue Eveland, Lisa Feldhusen, Ron Severson, Morgan Williamson, Paul Engelking, Elizabeth Reis, and Jennie Leander

**Minutes:**
Minutes from the April 7, 2009 meeting were not prepared for review at the time of this meeting.

**Agenda**

*UGC Proposal to Improve the UO Culture Connected with Grades*

[Proposal to Change the UO Grade Culture]

Copies of the revised preamble and proposal had been distributed prior to the meeting. Karen Sprague told the Council of her consultation with a student opinion writer for the Oregon Daily Emerald who had written the article on UO culture that was also distributed to the Council. She will invite the student to speak to the Council at its next meeting.

Council members commented upon the revised document:

- The document would benefit from more local quotes to highlight the relevance of the issue at UO. Karen invited Council members to send her more quotes and anecdotes.

- The question was raised as to why grade distributions in classes with fewer than 20 students would not be reported. Karen explained that there are privacy issues for students involved and that the precise number hasn’t been specified. Council members pointed out that privacy concerns are not
a factor for grade distribution information given to faculty and departments, and Karen concurred. This element of the proposal will be changed.

- There is a need to relate the meaning of grades to course expectations.
- As part of the rationale, the document should point out the pressure to adopt outside assessments if the grading system does not command respect. Ian McNeely provided a paragraph to make this point, and Council members endorsed it enthusiastically.
- A more emphatic statement of the positive effect of changing the UO’s grading culture should be in the document’s rationale.

Tom Wheeler will provide additional text to address the need for the UO to examine its overall grading culture.

Karen reviewed the next steps for discussion of the proposal:
- Utilize the Oregon Daily Emerald to highlight the issue;
- Discuss the issue with the Dean’s Council and Leadership Council;
- Conduct campus-wide town hall events to allow for faculty and student input.

The Motion was made to approve, in principle, the UGC Proposal to Improve the UO Culture Connected with Grades with minor changes to the text.

Moved: Dean Livelybrooks  
Seconded: Tom Wheeler  

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next UGC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 5, 2009, 12:30pm, at Johnson Hall Conference Room.