UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING
May 6, 2010
Collaboration Room, Knight Library

Present:
Susan Anderson, Andrew Bonamici, Kathie Carpenter, Dave Hubin, Dean Livelybrooks, Karen McLaughlin, Ian McNeely, Caleb Owen, Ron Severson, Josh Snodgrass, Karen Sprague, Drew Terhune, Matt Villeneuve,

Absent:
Eric Carlson, Jordynn Didlick, Paul Engelking, Sue Eveland, Amy Goeser Kolb, Jennifer Joslin, Josh Roering (on leave), Kiwako Sakamoto, Tom Wheeler (on leave), Morgan Williamson, and Elizabeth Reis

Minutes:
The Chair called for any amendments or changes to be made to the minutes of the last meeting. None was made.

The motion was made to accept the minutes from the April 22, 2010 meeting.

Moved: Dean Livelybrooks
Seconded: Ron Severson
The motion to accept the minutes passed unanimously.

Agenda
Town Hall Meetings on Grade Culture
The Chair presented a brief re-cap of the two Town Hall meetings (April 20 and April 29, 2010). In light of those meetings, the Chair asked the Council if there should be any changes in the proposals to be presented in a preliminary report to the University Senate on May 12, 2010. (No major changes were suggested). A final report will be submitted on May 26. Six Council members volunteered to assist the Chair in composing the draft report for May 12 by summarizing the comments received on the Grade Culture Blog. Each will focus on responses to a particular proposal or on the General Comments that came in:

Karen McLaughlin: Proposal 1
Dean Livelybrooks: Proposal 2
Josh Snodgrass: Proposal 3
Drew Terhune: General Comments

The Council continued to discuss some of the general trends they noted in the Town Hall meetings:
- Discussion
  - There appears to be a general perception of arbitrariness in grading practices;
  - There is some concern that addressing the grading culture will impinge on academic freedom and waste a lot of time (but this does not appear to be a wide spread opinion);
  - Proposal #3 (providing a context for grades on transcripts) could be problematic if implemented immediately. One way of addressing this could be to set a date to inaugurate it with a particular incoming Freshman class, rather than applying it midway through the careers of students who are already here;
  - It is important to find the best time and the best medium for instructors to study their own grade distribution. Council members felt this could be effectively done through Duckweb, and would be most useful several weeks before a particular course they are teaching is scheduled to begin;
  - Council members discussed whether grade distribution should go to individual faculty only or should be shared with department heads;
  - Data on grading practice would be most useful for large lower division classes.

Council members agreed that one new proposal that may emerge from the input received, namely to address the training of GTFs in appropriate grading practices and to include grading culture orientation for new faculty.

**Inauguration of General Education Teaching Institutes**

The Council agreed that a preliminary trial of a General Education Teaching Institute could be initiated as early as Fall 2010. The Composition program has expressed interest in participating in the project. The Council will explore the idea further.

The Chair announced that the next Council meeting would take up a revised version of the CAS General Social Science major proposal.

The meeting was adjourned.

**The next UGC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 3, 2010, 12:30pm at Johnson Hall Conference Room.**