UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING
June 3, 2010
Collaboration Room, Knight Library

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

Absent:
Eric Carlson, Jordynn Didlick, Paul Engelking, Amy Goeser Kolb, Jennifer Joslin, Dean Livelybrooks, Josh Roering (on leave), Kiwako Sakamoto, Caleb Southworth, Drew Terhune, Jim Tice, Tom Wheeler (on leave), Morgan Williamson, and Elizabeth Reis

Guests:
Richard Troxel, Director Undergrad Advising, Department of Human Physiology
Herb Chereck, Vice Provost for Enrollment Management

Minutes:
The Chair called for comments or emendations to the minutes from the previous UGC meeting on May 20, 2010. A minor change in wording was made to more clearly identify how the GSS proposal addressed the problem of pre-business students who are not admitted into the College of Business.

The motion was made to accept the minutes from the May 20, 2010 meeting as emended.

Moves: Kathie Carpenter
Seconded: Karen McLaughlin

The motion to accept the emended minutes passed unanimously.

Agenda
Continued Discussion on General Social Science proposal
[See: General Social Science Motion - Final Version]
The Chair recounted for the Council the consulting efforts that have transpired since the May 20 meeting to resolve the General Social Science Major proposal. Scott Coltrane, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences has consulted with Karen Sprague and the Chair. The Chair also consulted with various UGC members and conducted an informal straw poll after the May 20 meeting which revealed mixed support for the proposal: 1 positive vote of support, 1 negative vote opposed, and 5 conditional votes of support.
• **Discussion**
Among the issues the Council discussed were the following:
- In addition to the Faculty Advising board, subcommittees for each of the GSS tracks should monitor the tracks for coherence and rigor and oversee the structure of advising of students in these tracks;
- the Undergraduate Council looks for faculty intellectual investment in these proposed programs and wants to meet with the faculty of the proposed tracks;
- advising and publicity are key concerns;
- the proposed program may need to be approved by the state;
- the proposal will not have a significant impact on the Business minors in the College of Business;
- the CAS Dean has assured the Council that students will not be admitted to the major until Fall 2011.

**Based on discussions with CAS, Vice Provost Sprague, and Council members, the Chair offered a detailed motion [appended] to approve the revised GSS proposal subject to the conditions the Council specified in the motion.**

**Moved:** Susan Anderson  
**Seconded:** Josh Snodgrass  
The motion passed unanimously.

**Introductions:**
The Chair introduced Rich Troxel, Director of Undergraduate Advising in the Department of Human Physiology and Herb Chereck, Vice Provost for Enrollment Management to present a proposal to the Council for its endorsement.

**Proposal to synchronize the Add/Drop Deadline**
Herb Chereck presented some background to clarify the intent of the proposal. Currently, students are able to drop a class on the Monday of the first week of a course with no “W” recorded on their transcript. Fifteen years ago, students were allowed to drop/add through the Friday of the second week of a course. With technology today, it is no longer necessary to have such extended deadlines which are creating some problems for students and faculty. The recent enrollment surge has brought out inefficiencies in the system. The practice of “place/hold” (when students hold a place in a class for another student to enroll) is a rampant problem. Increasingly, faculty are not allowing students to add the class if someone drops so they don’t have to “catch up” the students enrolling late in the class.

It is proposed that the Add/Drop deadlines be moved to the same day (midnight Sunday at the end of the first week of the term). Professors would be encouraged to tape their first and second lectures of the term and post them on Blackboard to help late “adders” catch up in the course. “Wait listing” technology for courses will be piloted in Winter 2011.

• **Discussion**
The Council discussed the proposal in terms of its upsides and downsides:
- If the deadlines coincided, students would be forced to be more observant of deadlines and it would be easier to persuade faculty to allow “adds” at the end of the first week;
- Scholarship students who are required to enroll for a specific number of hours each term could be disadvantaged. However, it was pointed that this can be handled through the petition process. Generally, all “adds” going through the petitions process are approved.
- There was some concern about empty seats in a class. It was suggested that this proposal to synchronize deadlines should be timed to coincide with the rollout of the “Wait List” program.

The Council was generally in favor of the proposal to synchronize the Add/Drop deadlines to Sunday midnight (11:59pm) of the first week of the term correlative to the University-wide launch of the “Wait List.” The Chair called for a motion.

   The motion was made that the Undergraduate Council endorse the proposal to synchronize the Add/Drop deadline to the Sunday midnight of the first week of the term.
   Moved: Karen McLaughlin
   Seconded: Josh Snodgrass
   The motion passed unanimously.

The Council felt the new policy will encourage the better posting of course syllabi. There should be a media blitz to educate faculty and better communication to inform students of the new policy.

**Grade Culture Report**

[See: Grade Culture Report - Final Version]

The Chair presented to the Council the supplemental Grade Culture report he would submit to the University of Oregon Senate on June 7, 2010. The Council reviewed the report and made one minor spelling correction.

The motion was made that the Undergraduate Council endorse the supplemental report on Grade Culture and to submit the report to the UO Senate.
   Moved: Caleb Owen
   Seconded: Matt Villeneuve
   The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next UGC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 5, 2010, 11:30 am at the Collaboration Room in the Knight Library.