Present:
Andrew Bonamici, Eric Carlson, Kathie Carpenter, Amy Goeser Kolb, Dave Hubin, Karen McLaughlin, Ian McNeely, Caleb Owen, Kiwako Sakamoto, Ron Severson, Josh Snodgrass, Karen Sprague, Matt Villeneuve, Tom Wheeler, Morgan Williamson, Josh Roering, and Paul Engelking,

Absent:
Susan Anderson, Sue Eveland, Jordynn Didlick, Jennifer Joslin, Dean Livelybrooks, Drew Terhune, Laura Vandenburgh, and Elizabeth Reis

Guest:
Hilary Gerdes, Senior Director for Office of Disability Services

Introductions:
The Chair opened the meeting with a review of the charge to the Undergraduate Council from the UO Senate. [See: UO Senate Charge to UGC]

Undergraduate Council members introduced themselves in round-robin at the invitation of the Chair.

Agenda
Proposed Name Change for the Office of Disability Services
[See: Disability Services Name Change Proposal]

Hilary Gerdes presented the proposal to change the name of the Office of Disability Services to the “Accessible Education Center.” The request for the name change is in concert with a national trend to move away from the narrow – and somewhat negative- identity of providing services to disabled persons and toward a broader and more positive identity of making the educational experience fully accessible to students. It is expected that the name change will take effect officially with the Fall 2010 term. Experience indicates it may take a few years for the new name to fully take hold. With the UGC’s endorsement, the proposal will be forwarded to the Provost’s Office for approval.

The Council was generally in favor of the proposed name change the Chair called for a motion.

The motion was made that the Undergraduate Council endorse the proposal to change the name of the Office of Disability Services to the Accessible Education Center.

Moved: Karen McLaughlin
Seconded: Josh Snodgrass
The motion passed unanimously.
**Proposal to Change the Culture of Grading at UO**

Tom Wheeler presented a recap of last year’s development of a proposal to change the grading culture at the UO. Veteran UGC members discussed the context of the Grade Inflation study done by the Undergraduate Council in 2006 and the proposal of strategies for dealing with the overall problem of grade culture in 2008-09.

[See: Grade inflation proposal]

The Council considered several possible ways to proceed now:

- A survey could be designed and circulated among faculty in all departments soliciting ideas and attitudes about grade inflation on campus. (It was pointed out that this had already been done previously with several departments and with other groups such as the Student Senate, the Deans Council and the CAS Department Heads. The proposals developed last year were in response to that feedback.)
- The Council had already planned to use the beginning of this year to go to individual departments to present specific proposals face-to-face and to receive feedback on them.
- It is important to avoid the impression of doing a “hard sell” on the issue and the Council must work to involve the whole campus in these discussions. Particularly, students need to be involved, probably through the ASUO.
- We should take care to avoid too much focus on grade inflation, which may not be as much of a problem in all disciplines, and emphasize the need to develop a healthier grade culture, generally.
- A symposium on grade inflation could be held that might include PAC 10 institutions or other AAU institutions. The general feeling of the Council was that such a symposium could be very worthwhile, but it would be better to defer it until after the UO decides on a course of action itself.
- The goal is to change the grading culture and some steps have already been taken to do that through IntroDUCKtion, academic advising, and FIGs.

The Chair appointed Tom Wheeler and Josh Snodgrass to develop talking points to be used by Council members who will begin discussions within their own departments. Other Council members will plan to make presentations and initiate discussions with groups such as the ASUO, the Deans Council, and the CAS Department Heads. These presentations will be modeled on the presentation made by the UGC to the Leadership Council in Spring 2009. The talking points will be presented to the Council at the next meeting for review.

A proposal for changes in the Major and minor for PPPM was distributed to Council members for their review.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next UGC meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 23, 2009, 2:30pm at Rowe Conference Room, the Knight Library.