UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING
April 4, 2011
Collaboration Room, Knight Library

PRESENT
Susan Anderson, Andrew Bonamici, Ron Bramhall, Kathie Carpenter, Sue Eveland, Dave Hubin, Jennifer Joslin, Dean Livelybrooks, Karen McLaughlin, Ian McNeely, Josh Snodgrass, Karen Sprague, Drew Terhune, Gail Unruh, Matt Villeneuve, Tom Wheeler, Paul Engelking, and Julie Hessler

ABSENT
Eric Carlson, Amy Goeser Kolb, Jim Tice, and Elizabeth Reis

AGENDA
I. Update on presentation of Grade Culture Proposal to the Senate
II. Preview of work for UGC during Spring term

MINUTES

Discussion and vote on the minutes of the February 21 and March 7 meetings in Fall term was moved to the end of the agenda.

I. UPDATES ON GRADE CULTURE PROPOSAL BEFORE THE SENATE
The Chair thanked members of the UGC who presented the formal proposal on changing the Grade Culture of the University to the Senate at its March 9th meeting. He encouraged members to attend the April 13th meeting where the proposal will be up for vote, each motion being voted on separately.

The Senate Executive Committee asked the Academic Council to vet the proposal. The UGC Chair, who is also Chair of the Academic Council, recused himself from that review. The Chair said a report would be coming out from the Academic Council review shortly. The Chair also reported that he had made a presentation of the proposal to the ASUO Senate, at its request.

II. PREVIEW OF UGC SPRING TERM WORK
The Chair asked members to suggest items they felt should be discussed during the upcoming meetings of the Council. Several ideas were brought forward, including the following:

- Expanding the Course Connector project to include an archive for syllabi;
Review the approval process for establishing new courses/programs and clarify the process;

Examine the influence of new technology on teaching and learning;

Consider adopting an academic Honor Code

Discussion

Course Approval Process:
Paul Engelking explained that the course approval process is being improved and is generally working well. The Committee on Courses and the Inter-College General Education Requirements (ICGER) Committee have been working with the Registrar’s Office to fine-tune the process for particular problematic courses, such as multi-listed courses and experimental courses (e.g. Williams Teaching Award-funded courses) that are intended to count toward General Education requirements. Several solutions are being considered that should make it easier for faculty to turn their ideas for new courses into reality.

New Technology and Academic Honesty:
Members raised concerns about new technologies (Blackboard, Facebook, Twitter, etc) that make cheating easier. One example cited was a student going to Blackboard, lifting the notes of a professor’s lectures verbatim, and then selling those notes to other students. The procedure for reporting incidents of academic dishonesty is onerous and resolution takes so long that faculty is frequently reluctant to pursue it again. Instituting an Academic Honor Code could help by promoting a more ethical culture among students. Another idea is whether there should be prominent warnings on institutional technological environments informing students of the real risks associated with their use of social media.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next UGC meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 18, 2011, 12:00 noon at the Collaboration Room of the Knight Library.