UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING
May 2, 2011
Collaboration Room, Knight Library

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

ABSENT
Eric Carlson, Amy Goeser Kolb, Jennifer Joslin, Karen McLaughlin, Drew Terhune, Jim Tice, Judith Baskin, and Julie Hessler

AGENDA

I. General Education proposal from the Robert C. Clark Honors College, presented by Louise Bishop, Associate Professor, HC Literature

II. Academically Adrift DVD presentation

III. Approval of minutes of 4/18/2011 meeting

MINUTES

Prior to the start of the regular agenda, the Chair reported that he had a fruitful discussion with the incoming President of the University Senate regarding the implementation of Motion US10/11-11a which was passed by the Senate on April 19, 2011.

I. CLARK HONORS COLLEGE GENERAL EDUCATION PROPOSAL

The Chair introduced Louise Bishop and invited her to present a proposal from the Clark Honors College that would affirm that students satisfy University General Education requirements when they complete the Honors College curriculum. This is important in cases (few in number) where a student completes the Honors College curriculum but for some reason is not able to complete the Honors College thesis. When this happens, students are penalized because they must then satisfy the general University requirements and the 400-level courses offered as part of the Honors College General Education curriculum no longer count.

The UGC noted that there must have been an agreement at some point that the Honors College General Education curriculum, taken as a whole, is equivalent to the University’s General Education requirements since Honors College students earn UO degrees. Moreover, the Honors College has an
agreement with the English department that the set of Honors College courses in English and History satisfy the University’s General Education writing requirement (WR 121 and WR 122/3) because of the substantial writing component in those courses.

Discussion

- Would all HC students who drop out of the Honors College automatically have their university General Education requirements waived?
  Answer: No. This proposal applies only to Honors College students who have completed the Honors Curriculum, which is entirely General Education, but who have decided not to complete the thesis, which is done through the student’s major and is not General Education. Students who choose to leave the Honors College prior to having completed the General Education curriculum will revert to the requirements of the University at large.

- If there is already an agreement that the Honors College General Education curriculum satisfies university General Education requirements, what is the advantage of a formal proposal?
  Answer: Not all committees dealing with curricular matters are fully aware of the relation of the Honors College curriculum to the university General Education curriculum. It would be helpful if the Committee on Courses would consider the UGC’s recommendation, and if it concurs, include a statement of the equivalence of these two curricula in its quarterly curriculum report to the Senate.

The Chair called for a motion from the Council.

The motion was made that two curriculum clarifications regarding the Robert C. Clark Honors College be accepted and recommended to the Committee on Courses for inclusion in its Fall 2011 Curriculum Report, if possible. The Council recommends formal adoption of the following policies:

- Clark Honors College students who have taken the CHC History and Literature sequences, attaining a grade of “B” or better in each course, will have fulfilled the university’s general education writing requirements (as a substitute, effectively, for WR 121 and WR 122/123). This merely reconfirms a formal agreement already in place between the Honors College and the English department.

- The satisfactory completion of the entire Honors College General Education curriculum will fulfill the group requirements of the University General Education curriculum for those Clark Honors College students who decide not to complete an honors thesis.

Moved: Paul Engelking
Seconded: Ron Bramhall

The motion passed with 8 yeas, 1 nay, and 1 abstention.
Sue Eveland and Louise Bishop drafted the specific language recommendations to be sent to the Committee on Courses:

Clark Honors College students who have completed the CHC general education requirements (HC 221, 222, 231, 232, and either 223 or 233; four math/science courses from approved lists; and 20 credits in upper division CHC Colloquia) have fulfilled the university’s group requirements. Should a student leave the CHC after successful completion of all of these courses, the student will retain his/her clearance of the university’s group requirements.

Similarly, CHC students who have completed five courses (HC 221, 222, 231, 232; and either 223 or 233) with a B or better in each course have fulfilled the university’s writing requirement. Should a student leave the CHC after successful completion of all of these courses, the student will retain his/her clearance of the university writing requirement.

* NON-AGENDA ITEM: INAUGURAL UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM
Karen Sprague announced that the first annual Undergraduate Research Symposium will be held in the EMU on Thursday, May 12, 2011. She urged all UGC members to attend the event and sign up to attend particular presentations. A list of the presentations will be circulated via e-mail.

II. ACADEMICALLY ADRIFT
The Council viewed the first half of the recent online seminar by the authors of Academically Adrift, and will view the second half, and discuss all of the findings, at the next UGC meeting.

III. APPROVAL OF 4/18/11 MEETING MINUTES
The minutes of the April 18, 2011 meeting were tabled until the next meeting.

The next UGC meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 16, 2011 at 12:00 noon in the Collaboration Room of the Knight Library.