UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING
June 6, 2011
Collaboration Room, Knight Library

PRESENT
Susan Anderson, Andrew Bonamici, Ron Bramhall, Kathie Carpenter, Sue Eveland, Jennifer Joslin, Karen McLaughlin, Ian McNeely, Josh Snodgrass, Karen Sprague, Drew Terhune, Gail Unruh, and Matt Villeneuve

ABSENT
Eric Carlson, Amy Goeser Kolb, Dave Hubin, Dean Livelybrooks, Jim Tice, Tom Wheeler (on leave), Paul Engelking, Judith Baskin and Julie Hessler

AGENDA
I. Approve minutes of May 16, 2011

II. Final approval of GSS tracks (Reuben Zahler, GSS; Bruce Blonigen, Economics; Jeff Edmundson, School of Education)
   a. Applied Economics, Business, and Society
   b. Social Studies Teaching

III. Approval of revised Folklore major AND minor Folklore major (revised and excerpted)

MINUTES

I. APPROVING MINUTES FROM MAY 16, 2011 MEETING
The Chair called for any changes or amendments to the minutes of the previous meeting. There were none.

The motion was made to accept the minutes from the May 16, 2011 meeting.

   Moved: Drew Terhune
   Seconded: Ron Bramhall

The motion to accept the minutes passed unanimously.
II. FINAL APPROVAL OF GSS TRACKS

   The Chair introduced Reuben Zahler, Adjunct Instructor, History Department; Bruce Blonigen, Professor, Economics; and Jeff Edmundson, Curriculum Coordinator, Education Studies, College of Education to present updates on the development of the Applied Economics, Business, and Society track and the Social Studies Teaching track in the General Social Science major which was previously endorsed by the Council. This presentation was part of a continuing review of the GSS track curricula in regards to coherence and oversight. It was pointed out that the GSS major cannot double-major with another social science major nor minor in another social science.

   Reuben Zahler presented explained that the Applied Economics track in the GSS major combines many of the courses required in a Business major and an Economics major, but with a greater emphasis on providing the broad analytical skills of the social sciences. There are currently 70 majors enrolled in the track with 3 graduating in Spring 2011. Students are attracted by the business orientation of the AE track without having to major in business. Several hundred students in the pre-business program are not accepted into the Business major. In the past, they then went to the Economics major, but this was not necessarily good for the students. The Applied Economics track in the GSS major offers an alternative program. GSS majors can go on to an MBA program in graduate school. Many employers like prospective employees to have some business courses but don’t necessarily want Business majors. The GSS major fulfills this niche to the benefit of both students and employers.

   The Applied Economics track requirements have been raised to 48 credits to ensure that the GSS major does not become an “accidental” major. The Council asked if there shouldn’t be requirements beyond 2 Business Courses and 1 Economics course for the Applied Economics track in the core curriculum. This will be explored with the CAS Curriculum Committee.

b. General Social Science Major: Social Studies Teaching Track
   Jeff Edmundson from the College of Education presented a report on the Social Studies Teaching track in the GSS major. He explained that most departmental graduates (in specific subjects) go on to the master’s program in teaching for their certification. The Social Studies Teaching track is designed in consultation with the School of Education. It is a preparatory curriculum for what teacher candidates will need to be prepared to teach social studies, principally in the state of Oregon. The College of Education generally does not accept single-area majors in social studies. The General Social Studies major in Social Studies Teaching requires 68 credits.

   Council members inquired if there is a way that the General Social Studies major can act as a clearing house for history majors to teach social studies. Dean Livelybrooks noted that he is working to reactivate ECAT which advises students interested in teaching social sciences
at the secondary level. Rueben will modify the teaching track description to be clear about the ultimate goal of the major (which is to qualify social studies majors for the College of Education masters program). Students are required to declare a track when they declare a General Social Studies major.

Discussion
The Council approved the detailed clarifications and updates of the Applied Economics, Business, and Society track and the Social Studies Teaching track in the General Social Science major.

III. FOLKLORE MAJOR AND MINOR PROPOSAL MODIFICATIONS
The Council reviewed revisions made in the proposals for a Folklore undergraduate major and a Folklore undergraduate minor presented to the Council at its April 18, 2011 meeting. The changes were made in response to concerns voiced by the Council at that meeting.

The motion was made to endorse the revised proposal for the establishment of a Folklore undergraduate major.

Moved: Karen McLaughlin
Seconded: Drew Terhune

The motion was made to endorse the revised proposal for the establishment of a Folklore undergraduate minor.

Moved: Drew Terhune
Seconded: Matthew Villeneuve

Both motions for endorsement were passed unanimously.

Next Year
The Chair briefly outlined work for the 2011-2012 academic to be undertaken by the Council:

− Continue studying Academically Adrift
− Discuss Implementation of Grade Culture Proposal A with Department Heads and Senate members
− Invite Carl Yeh to an Undergraduate Council meeting to discuss the Honor Code
− Examine and discuss the ripple effects and impact of increasing class size on General Education classes

The next UGC meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 7, 2011, 2:30pm at the Knight Library Collaboration, Rm 122.