UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING
November 2, 2010
375 McKenzie Hall

Present:
Susan Anderson, Andrew Bonamici, Dave Hubin, Karen McLaughlin, Ian McNeely, Ron Severson, Karen Sprague, Matt Villeneuve, and Julie Hessler

Absent:
Eric Carlson, Kathie Carpenter, Jordynn Didlick, Sue Eveland, Amy Goeser Kolb, Jennifer Joslin, Dean Livelybrooks, Josh Snodgrass, Drew Terhune, Jim Tice, Judith Baskin, and Tom Wheeler (on leave)

Guests:
Lisa Freinkel, Associate Professor, English and Comparative Literature
Dennis Galvan, Associate Professor, Political Science and International Studies

Minutes:
A review of the minutes from October 19, 2010 was deferred to the next scheduled meeting of the Undergraduate Council.

Introductions: The Chair introduced Lisa Frienkel for a presentation for a Translinguistic Teaching Institute proposal and Dennis Galvan, representative for the “Global Oregon” Big Idea project.

Agenda
The Chair presented a bit of background for the proposal. The institute would be piloted by linking Fall term courses with Winter term courses. He said the Council’s considerations of the proposal should focus on three things:
1) What Fall term courses should be targeted for recruiting students into Winter term courses in an Institute?
2) How should the message about the Institute be crafted to appeal to students?
3) What other courses might be “naturally” identified as clustering into potential Teaching Institutes?
Translation Studies Teaching Institute
[See: Translation Studies Teaching Institute General Education Courses for Fall 2010 and Winter 2011 Draft Email Regarding General Education Curriculum]

Lisa explained that the proposed Translation Studies Teaching Institute is based on the notion that “…a flourishing global community is grounded in a deep appreciation of human diversity” and that “…we can gain increasing awareness of the way that languages, cultures, people and physical matter are transformed as they move from one
context to the next. The concrete act of interlinguistic translation – of rendering speech and concepts from one human language into another – lies at the heart of Translation Studies.” The Translation Studies Teaching Institute would explore cross-cultural translation in four broad spectrums: Translating languages; Translating cultures; Translating people; and Translating matter. All the courses listed within each area were primarily Group-satisfying lower-division General Education courses. Lisa acknowledged that the process of designing this Institute was labor intensive and time-consuming. She wondered if there might be a more efficient or streamlined process for designing an institute.

The Council engaged in a vigorous discussion of the merits of the proposal and of Teaching Institutes themselves. Several points were raised:

- There was serious questioning as to whether science courses belonged in the Translation Studies Teaching Institute curriculum;
- There needs to be greater clarification as to what is meant by “translation”;
- Are Teaching Institutes about establishing a field of study or a Pathway?
- Is the aim of the Translation Studies Teaching Institute to develop multicultural sensitivity or to develop a skill set?
- Wouldn’t the Teaching Institutes benefit from a simpler clustering of courses (e.g. just two or three courses that dealt with an interconnective theme)?
- Shouldn’t we wait for faculty buy-in on Teaching Institute themes?
- Isn’t there something to be said for the serendipitous intellectual connections made by students themselves?
- Doesn’t the current General Education system work just fine, by recognizing that knowledge is in fact fragmented and non-unitary? The checklist of distribution requirements works well to expose students to the diversity of knowledge.
- Shouldn’t the approach be to model the Teaching Institute concept, not impose a structure of Teaching Institutes on the General Education curriculum?

Lisa commented that disparate ideas probably need a special seminar or event to specifically explore idea connectivity. This could be achieved by a special speaker or presentation to serve as a catalyst to grab students’ curiosity. Dennis Galvan noted that Global Oregon could help support a special speaker or event.

Another idea was a “retreat” specifically for faculty who teach General Education courses that could be held as early as finals week of fall term. Faculty would have the opportunity to discuss and share their experiences and provide comment on the concept of the Teaching Institutes. The event would be scheduled for an afternoon and finish with a dinner. The UGC could also set up a blog soliciting comments.

The meeting was adjourned.

**The next UGC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 16, 2010, 11:30am at the Rowe Conference Room in the Knight Library.**