UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING
January 14, 2013
Collaboration Room, Knight Library

PRESENT
Susan Anderson, Andrew Bonamici, Ron Bramhall, John Gage, Dave Hubin, Madeleine Hudson, Diana Salazar, Alison Schmitke, Ben Smood, Josh Snodgrass, Karen Sprague, Beata Stawarska, Randy Sullivan, and Glenda Utsey

ABSENT
Ashley Buchholz, Paul Engelking, Sue Eveland, Jennifer Joslin, Loren Kajikawa, Karen McLaughlin, Kerry Snodgrass, and Tom Wheeler

GUESTS
Lee Rumbarger, Teaching and Learning Center; Ruth Keele, Academic Affairs

AGENDA
I. Minutes from November 16 and November 30, 2012 meetings
II. Overview discussion of Grade Culture and Grading Policy postings by departments

MINUTES

* NON AGENDA ITEM: UO NOTIFICATION OF POSSIBLE CONSORTIUM OF APLU LAND-GRANT INSTITUTIONS TO STUDY ONLINE COURSE TECHNOLOGY
Karen Sprague announced that the president has received a notice from the Association of Public Land-grant Universities (APLU) regarding the possibility of forming a consortium of land-grant institutions to study on-line course technology. There would be two goals in this consortium: (1) to pool resources and hire an expert to evaluate the new technology in higher education; and (2) to examine the idea of common course content. Andrew Bonamici is the UO representative to the consortium. They are also looking for faculty representatives. Recommendations and ideas coming out of the Consortium would be coming to the Undergraduate Council for study and comment.

* NON AGENDA ITEM: OTHER DEVELOPMENTS AT UO
The Chair summarized some other developments occurring at the university:

– Randy Sullivan’s appointment as the UGC representative to the Technology Committee organized by Vice Provost Doug Blandy is confirmed.
I. MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 16 AND NOVEMBER 30, 2012 MEETINGS
The Chair called for a review and motion on the minutes of the November 2, 2012 meeting. None were forwarded.

The motion was made to accept the minutes of the November 16 and November 30, 2012 meetings.

Moved: Karen McLaughlin
Seconded: Ron Bramhall

The motion passed unanimously.

II. OVERVIEW DISCUSSION: GRADE CULTURE AND GRADING POLICY POSTINGS BY DEPARTMENTS

The Chair presented a brief summary of the evolution of the Council’s examination of Grade Culture at the University beginning in 2005 and the Senate Motion that was passed from among three recommendations made by the UGC in Spring 2011. He asked the Council where members thought they should go on this issue. The discussion among Council members raised several points:

– the implementation of the approved proposal appears to have proven successful, even though there are still departments that have not posted their grading policies online;

– the Council needs to continue talking about why the grade culture in the university matters and is important;

– UO may probably never be able to hold to one grading model, but all grading processes should at least be transparent;

– grading distributions should be evaluated in tandem with teaching evaluations;

– transcript contextualization of grades is important as a grade culture change is being effected; and

– course rigor needs to be preserved in whatever grade culture evolves.

The Council agreed that the grade culture issue is important and should continue to be a focus of the Council. Members volunteered to go directly to departments to discuss the matter with Bill Harbaugh of the UO Intercollegiate Athletics Committee is looking into grades for athletes. The Chair will attend the first meeting of this group. Alison Schmitke volunteered to represent the Undergraduate Council at subsequent meetings.
department/program heads and to encourage them to develop and post their grading policy. The Council will also take another look at the two recommendations not passed by the Senate in 2011.

The Chair announced that the next Council meeting will focus on online courses and best practices being used at the UO in online course presentations.

The next UGC meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 28, 2013, 12:30pm in the Collaboration Room of the Knight Library.