UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING
April 19, 2013
Collaboration Room, Knight Library

PRESENT
Susan Anderson, Andrew Bonamici, Ron Bramhall, Ashley Buchholz, Madeleine Hudson, Loren Kajikawa, Alison Schmitke, Josh Snodgrass, Karen Sprague, Karen McLaughlin, Glenda Utsey, and Bil Morrill (for Jennifer Joslin)

ABSENT
Paul Engelking, Sue Eveland, John Gage, Dave Hubin, Jennifer Joslin, Diana Salazar, Ben Smood, Kerry Snodgrass, Beata Stawarska, Randy Sullivan, and Tom Wheeler

GUESTS
• Brian Klopotek, Associate Professor of Ethnic Studies
• Tom Ball, Assistant Vice Provost, OIED
• Kirby Brown, Assistant Professor of English

AGENDA

I. Proposal for new undergraduate minor in Native American Studies
Presented by: Brian Klopotek, Associate Professor of Ethnic Studies (via Skype) & Tom Ball, Assistant Vice President, OIED & Kirby Brown, Assistant Professor of English

II. Proposal for changes to undergraduate minors in Architecture and Interior Architecture
Presented by: Brook Muller, Associate Professor of Architecture Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, AAA

MINUTES

* MINUTES FROM APRIL 2, 2013 MINUTES
Deferred.

* NON AGENDA ITEM: OVERVIEW OF COUNCIL WORK FOR NEXT MAY 3, 2013 MEETING
The Chair opened the meeting with a brief overview of work that remained for the Council to address at the next meeting of May 3, 2013:

- A review of the wording for the Online Policy being developed by the Council;
- Ian McNeely, Associate Dean of CAS Undergraduate Education will present the Council with a report on the OUS Credit for Prior Learning Task Force and ask for feedback from the Council that will be reported back to the Task Force; and

- There may also be a presentation on the proposed Arabic Studies minor.

Karen Sprague made a brief report on the grade inflation discussion. Karen Sprague and Josh Snodgrass visited with the CAS Department Heads group meeting on April 17, 2013 and received a positive reception and response of support from the group. They encouraged the Council to continue its work on addressing the issue of grade culture and grade inflation.

I. PROPOSAL FOR NEW MINOR IN NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES

The Chair introduced the presenters for the proposed Minor in Native American Studies:

- Brian Klopotek, Associate Professor of Ethnic Studies (via Skype)
- Tom Ball, Assistant Vice President, OIED
- Kirby Brown, Assistant Professor of English

Brian Klopotek has spearheaded the move toward this minor. He explained that for the last 30 years, the regional Native American communities and their leaders have been pressing the University of Oregon to develop this minor in Native American Studies. In the past two years, faculty have been working as the Native American Strategic Initiative, a group dedicated to developing a program for Native American students and tribes. The group has been working with the Native American Advisory Board, under President Berdahl, and has been working and consulting with the tribes to shape the minor to meet the needs of students. There has also been consultation with students and faculty across the campus.

What is distinctive about Native American Studies? The first thing is the unique political status of the indigenous tribes in the United States. The issues of indigenous peoples are distinct from racial issues. The United States does not make treaties with racial minorities; the United States makes treaties with other nations. The treaties of the government with Native American tribes are emblematic of the national status of the indigenous peoples. Tribes are part of an intergovernmental matrix with the United States – this includes Tribal government, Federal government, State government, and local government. Students are not well-educated in these unique political relationships and thus this becomes a main focus and central point of the Native American Studies minor. There are also cultural distinctions that are focused on: the indigenous nations’ relationship to place; the significance of the colonial experience; the relationship of the indigenous groups to each other, as well. Native Americans experience both this racial status and this indigenous political, intergovernmental status, and the minor will examine the overlap and the distinctions of the two.

The benefits to the university of having the minor include having a service component to native communities that is a significant part of the minor. The minor will help Native American students
become more visible and provide a way for students to integrate into the academy. This will help in
the recruitment and retention of Native American students. Brian Klopotek also pointed to a number
of key initiatives at the University of Oregon that would be supported by the minor. He noted that the
minor is structured in a similar way as other minors are structured at the university.

Tom Ball added that, as tribes contribute more to the economy, it is good to educate all state citizens
about the indigenous peoples. Kirby Brown pointed that in the 2011 census, 109,000 people in Oregon
self-identified as Native American or Alaskan Native American, or some combination of Native
American heritage, which represents 2.8% of the total Oregon population. The University of Oregon,
with a student population of 24,500, has a Native American enrollment of 171 students, which is 0.69%
of the total student body—a full 2% lower than the proportion of Native Americans in the state of
Oregon and less than the national average which is about 1%. What is ironic is that the state of Oregon
has a 50% higher Native American population than any other state in the union. These figures speak
both to the potential of the Minor in Native American Studies and to the necessity for such a program.

Questions
- Why are the language requirements so low for this minor? Shouldn’t there be a prerequisite
  of 1 year of a language?
  Answer: The requirements are modest because this is only a minor. Certainly, if the
  program evolves into a major, there will be a more rigorous language requirement. At this
time, the program developers don’t want to limit the number of students enrolling in the
minor by the inclusion of the language requirement.

- Core courses: Will there be a process or procedure to petition for more elective courses to
  be included in the core, e.g. an ethno-musicology course?
  Answer: Yes, these requests will be considered by the Native American Advisory Council and a
decision will be made on the course’s suitability in the minor.

- Do you have administrative support for this minor?
  Answer: Not yet, but some support has been offered to help provide administrative support
  through OIED. Funding for future support is also being discussed with the Ethnic Studies
  department. Only about 5 declared minors are anticipated in the first year, so the current
  staff should suffice for advising needs in the minor.

- Will there be some way to incorporate a “cultural immersion” experience in this minor?
  Answer: Such an experience requires a lot of preparation and planning. We are certainly
  exploring these types of immersion experiences and want to develop these as the program
  matures. There is an option in Ethnic Studies 199 that provides some of this. There is also a
course being taught in the College of Education which provides field experience.
  The language requirement presents some unique challenges for the program, especially in
  light of the fact that there is immense diversity (over 500 Native American languages) and
  because of the colonial experience, English has become a “trade” language of Native
  Americans. There are also very few teachers of the Native American languages. There are
  some language resources at LCC, but there are limitations. Some languages are no longer
spoken; some are only spoken by 1 person; some by 100,000 persons. There are about 2 or 3 language families taught by UO faculty. There are also self-study classes for some languages through the Yamada Language Center.

The presenters left the meeting and the Council discussed the proposal.

Discussion
- A student Council member expressed appreciation for the offering of the proposal for the program.
- The proposal was praised for its clarity and organization. The demographics cited in the proposal were very revelatory. The proposal was clearly focused on students and their needs.
- The Council agreed that the proposal should move forward with the hope that the language requirement can be developed as the program evolves. The Council felt that the program will prove to be more popular than the proposers are anticipating. A suggestion was made that the Council might recommend that financial resources be found to support the program.

The motion was made to endorse the proposal for the Minor for Native American Studies.

Moved: Karen McLaughlin
Seconded: Alison Schmitke

The motion was passed unanimously.

II. PROPOSAL FOR CHANGES TO UNDERGRADUATE MINORS IN ARCHITECTURE AND INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE

The Chair introduced Brook Muller, Associate Professor of Architecture and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in AAA. Brook Muller presented the proposal to make changes to the minors in Architecture and in Interior Architecture.

Brook Muller presented the rationale for the changes, explaining that Interior Architecture resides within Architecture. For both minors, there are two audiences: people outside the department and people who are Interior Architecture majors seeking an Architecture minor, or the other way around. A lot of courses in Architecture are not appropriate for people outside of the department programs. There were consistency issues, in that the two minors had very different requirements. There were rigor issues for students within the programs. There were problems for people outside the programs because they simply couldn’t complete the minor as it was described. The decision was made to make the minor more consistent with each other. The minors have been redesigned to mark clear paths for students outside the major as well as for students majoring within the programs. The goals for the proposed revisions are to create minors that are clear, rigorous, and can be successfully accomplished.


Questions
- Who will control the use of the elective courses for the major or the minor? Where are the minors coming from?
  **Answer:** A surprising number of students come from outside the department, but 75% are within the department majors.

- Is there going to be an advisor to decide the appropriateness of courses counting toward the major or the minor?
  **Answer:** Yes. History of Art courses (in Architecture or Interior Architecture) can count toward the minor. Muller noted that AAA is looking to introduce more General Education courses into its curriculum. Architecture is working to develop more courses that have more broad appeal to a more general audience. The suggestion was made that AAA will have to do a lot of PR to entice students to consider the Architecture or Interior Architecture minors because they have a reputation for being very difficult. The website could also be utilized to show a clear path for the minors that would appeal to students.

- Will the residency or grading requirements change with the change in the requirements?
  **Answer:** This will be studied by the departments and appropriate adjustments made.

Brook Muller left the meeting following his presentation.

Discussion
The Council discussed the proposal and raised some questions:
- How common is it for minors to be so closely related? It was explained that these two minors are not really that close. A comparable program is a major/minor in Journalism. This is pretty much a department or college level decision.

- There is a clear effort to instill clarity into these two minors and address the goals of consistency, rigor, and accessibility.

- It would be easier for academic advisors to sell an Architecture minor to students if the department showed a clear non-major path for the minor on the website.

The motion was made to endorse the proposed changes for the Architecture minor and the Interior Architecture minor with small changes clarifying pathways to the minors for non-majors.

**Moved:** Ron Bramhall  
**Second:** Karen McLaughlin

The motion was approved unanimously by the Undergraduate Council.

The next UGC meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 3, 2013 in the Collaboration Room of the Knight Library.