UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING  
October 5, 2012  
Collaboration Room, Knight Library

PRESENT 
Susan Anderson, Ron Bramhall, Ashley Buchholz, Sue Eveland, Dave Hubin, Madeleine Hudson, Jennifer Joslin, Diana Salazar, Alison Schmitke, Ben Smood, Josh Snodgrass, Kerry Snodgrass, Karen Sprague, Beata Stawarska, Randy Sullivan, and Tom Wheeler,

ABSENT 
Andrew Bonamici, Loren Kajikawa, Paul Engelking, Karen McLaughlin, and Glenda Utsey

AGENDA
I. Introductions
II. Preview of 2012-2013 UGC agenda
III. Discussion of projects and goals
IV. Sandra Gladney, Assoc. Director of Academic Extension

MINUTES

I. INTRODUCTIONS
Members of the Council introduced themselves to each other.

The Chair opened the meeting by reading the charge to the Undergraduate Council from the Senate.  
http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~uosenate/dircharges/undergradcharge.html

It was noted that undergraduate education is a core basis for accreditation of the university. The Chair explained the mission of the Council and extolled the diversity of faculty, students, and staff that serve in its membership. The authority of the UGC comes from the UO Senate. The UGC also works collaboratively with other senate committees.

II. PREVIEW OF YEAR’S AGENDA &  
III. DISCUSSION OF PROJECTS AND GOALS
The Chair presented the issues the Council will be working with during 2012–2013:

1) Online [Distance] Education  
The Council will:  
– look at online courses and the trajectory of online course proliferation; and  
– think through the big picture of online education at the university.
2. General Education
The Council will examine the General Education curriculum and its purpose:
– What are we doing well?
– Do we need to adjust the way we do General Education? How?

III. Grade Culture
The Council will work to get:
– more departments to post their grading rubrics; and
– remaining recommendations on grade culture moved forward.

The Chair announced that both he and the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies would be absent from the October 19 meeting due to prior commitments. However, he was assigning reading for Council members to discuss at that meeting and to begin development of a plan for addressing online education. The goal was to move towards articulating a statement re. online education at the November 30 meeting.

IV. DEVELOPMENT OF ONLINE COURSES AT UO
The Chair introduced Sandra Gladney, Director of Academic Extension, who discussed the history of the development of online courses at UO via the PowerPoint presented by Doug Blandy at the September 12 Leadership Retreat. Following the presentation, Council members raised several questions, including:

• How many online courses currently exist at UO?
  Sandra noted that there are many, but did not have an exact number. For a variety of reasons, General Education and Group Satisfying courses comprise the bulk of online course offerings. 98% of online students are “regular” degree-seeking UO students.

• Do we have a sense of how many UO students are taking online courses elsewhere?
  Sue Eveland will research this question through the Registrar’s Office.

• How is tuition impacted by online course enrollment?
  The Budget Model is still in flux and the impact of these courses on departments is not clear, yet. Presently, all online courses are self-support courses. There is a price break for non-resident students enrolled in online courses.

• Do online courses ever cost students less?
  Possibly for resident students. In a survey of students on online courses, this point was not addressed.

• What are the drivers for enrollment in online courses?
  There are several factors, including schedule conflicts. These “schedule conflicts,” however, lump together reasons such as employment and childcare with “extra-curricular activities.”
• Is there a desire to standardize the review of online courses? Currently, the Academic Extension Center handles only self-support courses; online tuition courses are reviewed and administered independently by departments. Departments are responsible for the academic oversight of online courses. Online courses converted from already existing courses are not currently institutionally reviewed as new regular courses.

• Are students getting a balance of “technologically enhanced” and actual engagement (via discussion) in class? The Council concurred that there needs to be an institutional decision on how technology fits into the educational mission. There needs to be a consistent standard of rigor for all courses, not a 2-tiered standard for different modalities of course delivery. The Council wondered if certain kinds of methodology are favored by the online learning environment. One member observed that with the advancement of the online learning environment, in 15 years, the great need in university education will be the need for human contact.

The next UGC meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 19 at 2:00pm in the Collaboration Room, Knight Library (Rm 122).