UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING
ONLINE EDUCATION DISCUSSION
OCTOBER 19, 2012

The focus of the meeting is online courses, and the plan is to discuss two interrelated issues:

1. Oversight of online courses with the goal of producing a recommendation that is consistent with that of standard courses and which addresses issues unique to online offerings.

2. Broader recommendations and strategies for the role of online education at UO.

OVERSIGHT OF ONLINE COURSES

While this issue will certainly be informed by the broad strategic discussion, there is a shorter-term need to determine if oversight is needed and what that looks like. We are shooting for a policy recommendation by end of Fall 2012 term.

1. What problem are we trying to solve? What are the issues?

2. What is the scope of that problem? Is it widespread or just a few cases here and there?

3. To address this issue, what else do we need to know and who do we need to talk to?

4. Is taking a course online a “curricular change”? If so, is it “minor” or “major”?

5. What are our preliminary ideas about an oversight approach – pros and cons of:
   a. Doing nothing and letting instructors/departments manage
   b. Requiring oversight by an existing extra-departmental body (e.g. UO Committee on Courses) in the same way that body would review standard curricular changes
   c. Require oversight by a department or program
   d. Require oversight by a new body such as asking Academic Extension or other entity to form an advisory board to monitor academic quality of online courses
   e. Do nothing specific regarding oversight of online courses but consider other revisions to the current review process for consistency
   f. Other options?
BROAD DISCUSSION OF ONLINE EDUCATION AT UO

Given the complexities and scope of this issue, we will just begin the discussion and try to outline next steps.

1. Broadly speaking, what should be UO’s vision regarding online education? How does it fit within our Academic Mission and the execution of that mission? Let’s just capture some initial thoughts here.

2. What are the big issues/questions to consider with online education?

3. What are the next steps for the Council regarding online education? Consider that Senate President Kyr has stated he is in the process of forming an ad hoc committee to look at “instructional technology”, under which he includes online education. What role should the Undergraduate Council take?