

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON CURRICULUM (UCOC)

MINUTES

January 14, 2015

2:00-3:00 pm

****HOH 506****

I. UCOC DECEMBER Minutes

- *Attachment: UCOC December 3 Minutes*

→APPROVED

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. “Cross-listing” a Course with Another University (Robert Morley, Associate Registrar)

The Director of the online Master of Public Health program would like to create a new global health course in collaboration with another faculty at UC Irvine. Is it possible for a USC course to be “cross-listed” with a course from another university? USC students would enroll in a USC version of the course that is offered by another university.

Robert Morley asks UCOC members to consider this question in establishing guidelines for USC’s collaboration with other universities, e.g. WBB.

December 3, Morley presented the cross-list request and asked UCOC members to consider if this is a request that they would consider in the spirit of collaborating with other universities, per the Provost’s directive? Tom Cummings asked Morley to lay out the issues for courses and degrees, the criteria for partnerships, etc. and to consider how UCOC should advise the Provost on this issue. UCOC will review Morley’s recommendation at the next meeting.

January 14, Robert Morley offered examples of partnership agreements with both UCLA and Hebrew Union College. At the graduate level, if a course is not offered at USC, students can take a course at UCLA and receive 2/3 credit (UCLA is on a quarters) at USC. Degrees have been offered in partnership with Hebrew Union College since the seventies.

DEFERRED, The committee was willing to consider a collaborative effort with another university; however, members felt the request lacked the necessary detail to decide on a course of action. Kristine Moe will reach out to the department for further information.

B. Proposal to Allow Separate Courses be Taught in the Same Room, Time and Day
(Brian Head, AHS Chair)

In the spirit of fostering more interdisciplinary teaching, Brian Head proposes that UCOC allow approval of courses in cases in which two courses are independent with regard to syllabus, grading and department, but which nevertheless work symbiotically with each other, even if their unit or pay structure is different. For example, ENGL 620 Literature and Interdisciplinary Studies (4, max 12) (taught by David St. John) and MUCO 548 - Writer and Composer (3 units) (taught by Frank Ticheli) have been run simultaneously for many years with great success. Getting credit in one would be quite different from getting credit in another: The creative writers write words, the composers write music. But they collaborate on their projects and take the same lectures thereby learning about the other discipline while actively creating song, oratorio and opera material. Head believes that there are other course pairings which would benefit from this approach, and in fact it was brought up by Jim Moore in Engineering recently at one of the WASC meetings. Head has faculty members in both Thornton and Roski who also would like to create similar pairings.

Brian Head noticed that MUCO 548 was initially constructed to house both creative writing and music composition students. However, at some point the new structure with the simultaneous courses was adopted, which Head believes allows for more flexibility for both sides. He proposes that UCOC formally allow such collaborations.

ENGL 620 Literature and Interdisciplinary Studies (4, max 12) Issues and theory of studying literature in relation to history, science, politics, psychology, religion, sociology, media, the visual arts, and other disciplines.

MUCO 548 Writer and Composer (3, Sp) Structured collaboration among composers and poets.

Please Note: A slight variation of this topic was addressed at the November 2013 UCOC Meeting. The minutes record the following:

“...The question was posed: should the professor be allowed to teach the same title, two different prefixes, with two *different* unit values at the same time and location?”

UCOC members were supportive of the idea, noting various cooperative teaching arrangements that had been arranged in their own schools. They said that if the professor could demonstrate different expectations for students taking different unit values of the course, with syllabi showing how the contact hours and workload would vary for the two versions of the course, they were willing to allow this as an exception.

...

NOTE: Subsequent to the meeting, the chair was made aware that the Registrar’s current policy, or procedure, is to allow only one course (potentially with a cross-list) to be taught in one location at one time. The current policy and a proposed revision to this policy will be presented to UCOC for a formal vote at the next scheduled UCOC meeting.”

Discussion of this topic was postponed until February 2014 and then assigned to the Curricular Innovations Taskforce. No formal answer was given to this question.

DISCUSSED, December 3, Brian Head said that the issue was different from the topic first presented in November 2013. Teachers have been collaborating on teaching a music and writing course for years to great effect and awards. At the WASC meeting such collaboration was encouraged, but a fellow USC faculty member noted that it was not allowed, per policy. Head proposed that UCOC formally allow such collaborations on a case-by-case basis.

Robert Morley said that technically this was not a curriculum issue, but a scheduling issue. Members brought up the questions of the professor-load, evaluations, etc., but were in general support. Tom Cummings requested that Head write a recommendation to the Provost to be endorsed by UCOC and referred to in the future when school's look for guidance in regard to this question.

DEFERRED UNTIL FEBRUARY, Brian Head will present a recommendation for UCOC members to endorse to the Provost.

- *Attachment: Recommendation*

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Innovative Degree Programs (Mark Todd, Associate Provost)

DISCUSSED, Mark Todd expressed both the President's and Provost's desire to encourage more innovative programs. He asked how UCOC can broker more innovation from the schools. Also, how can agreements that are made by school deans be better communicated to the Registrar?

Members said innovations were coming through, as was evidenced by the Viterbi MOU on today's agenda. One member noted the cost of administering the innovative programs/partnerships may be a deterring factor. She also noted the need for greater incentives to compensate the time and effort it takes to develop a program.

It was noted that some interest had been expressed in interdisciplinary work at the initial outreach meetings and connections had been offered, but there has not been the contact with the departments to see if they have followed through on any of the ideas. Also suggested was that the deans who sign the agreements communicate those agreements with their own designated curriculum deans, who in turn notify the Curriculum Coordination Office, and thereby the Registrar, of any planned new programs and related agreements.

B. USC and Tsinghua Agreement – A Request for Exception in Unit Reduction (Geoff Shiflett, SES Chair)

Viterbi negotiated and signed an MOU with Tsinghua. The effect on the degree requirements is to grant an exception to the number of units accepted for transfer to selected Viterbi MS degrees (the list may expand in the future). It also permits 9-units from USC to be transferred to Tsinghua, presumably also for degree credit. This two-way transfer enables students to earn two separate MS degrees with a shared 9-units of coursework. It was suggested that the life of the exception be limited to the life of the MOU. Perhaps a way to handle this in the USC Catalogue would be to have a separate section immediately following the section on Residence Requirements to provide details on any MOUs in effect for that Catalog year.

- *Attachments: TsinghuaUniv_Viterbi_DualDegree_5-21-13, Dual Degree Defined and Rules Regarding Reduction of Units, Graduate and Professional Education_Transfer Credit*

Note: The current definition of a dual degree is attached, along with rules regarding unit reduction. In addition a document is attached detailing current USC policy in regard to transfer unit limits.

APPROVED, UCOG members generally expressed support of allowing an exception to the rule of only allowing four units to be transferred and applied to a master's program of 27 units or less. Nine units may be transferred toward the Viterbi master's degrees detailed in the Memorandum of Understanding for a Dual Degree for Masters of Science between Tsinghua University's School of Information Science and Technology and the University School of Engineering, dated May 21, 2013.

Please note, per current policy: 2014-15 USC Catalogue: <http://catalogue.usc.edu/graduate-2/cwte-transfer/>: "Program exceptions to the transfer of course work policies require the approval of the UCOG and are listed in the departmental sections of th[e] catalogue."

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. GE Memo – New GE Designation to be Added to Existing and New Courses

- *Attachment: New GE Memo, January 12, 2014*

Members present

Diane Badame
Steven Bucher
Thomas Cummings (Chair)
Brian Head
Kristine Moe (Support Staff)
Robert Morley
Geoffrey Shiflett
Mark Todd

Members absent

Gene Bickers
Judy Garner
Susan Metros

Guests