

# UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON CURRICULUM (UCOC)

## MINUTES

*November 6, 2019*

2:00-3:30 pm

\*\*\*\*BRI 5\*\*\*\*

### I. UCOC OCTOBER 2019 MINUTES

- Attachment: *UCOC October 2019 Minutes*

➔ **APPROVED**

### II. NEW BUSINESS (not on agenda but discussed)

#### A. Special Topics in Physical Education (John DeMartini, Curriculum Coordination Office)

**DISCUSSED NOVEMBER, 2019** DeMartini explained that earlier in the fall the Physical Education department had submitted requests for undergraduate Special Topics to be scheduled for the spring, but it was unclear whether the sections should be scheduled 299 or 499, given that PHED courses are currently only assigned numbers up to 199. In an effort to reinforce the existing “activity” and “theory” distinction that PHED maintains, and with the intention of avoiding confusion over the rotating topics courses down the line, the Curriculum Office recommended designating 499 as theory and 299 as activity, which would fit within the standard parameters approved by UCOC for undergraduate Special Topics offerings.

When discussed at a staff meeting, Matt Bemis, Associate Registrar of Degree Progress and Curriculum Services, expressed concern that scheduling PHED 499, which would be degree applicable at the upper division level, may not be the appropriate course of action. Members of UCOC shared varying perspectives, including the view that PHED’s ability to offer a 499 should not be automatically ruled out, but ultimately it decided to make a strong recommendation that the department use 299 instead. It was questioned if a 199 – perhaps for the activity courses – could be employed, which may warrant further discussion. Members had concern about the rigor of the Special Topics syllabi reviewed, and it was decided that Chi Mak, UCOC chair, would reach out to Dornsife College for discussion.

The committee also had concerns related to the theory-activity distinction, such as how the courses are represented in the catalogue, who decides in which category a course resides, and who should approve theory courses. It was noted that, per a UCOC chair decision in 2016, PHED courses would no longer be reviewed by SES because they were not considered academic in nature. Guidelines and future directions remain open for discussion.

**UPDATE SINCE THE NOVEMBER MEETING** UCOC’s recommendation to schedule the sections as PHED 299 was met with no objection. Steve Vankanegan, Department of Physical Education, said that there is likely no need to introduce PHED 199, as the proliferation of PHED Special Topics offerings is not expected. He also noted his willingness to represent the department at a future UCOC meeting to answer any questions or concerns, should the committee request it.

### III. OLD BUSINESS

#### A. Online Components at the Undergraduate Level (Brian Head, AHS Chair, UCOC)

**DISCUSSED MAY 1, 2019** [...] Mak said that the committee should definitely continue the discussion with a goal to provide guidance for developments in the future.

**UPDATE SINCE MAY 2019 MEETING** Donna Garcia reported increasing interest from campus partners regarding the definitions and criteria for “online” and “hybrid” courses. Garcia has been in touch with Michael Nichol, Associate Vice Provost for Online Education, who may have a stake in UCOC’s continued discussion.

**DISCUSSED OCTOBER 2, 2019** [...] Mak requested more information on the categories of online coursework that are not allowable in transfer, and recommended that the committee contemplate primary discussion points for exploration at future meetings.

- *Attachments:*      *Fall2019 Online Program Data*  
                              *Notes from Provost’s Office and Registrar*  
                              *Notes from the Articulation Office*  
                              *“Professors’ Slow, Steady Acceptance of Online Learning: A Survey”* [[online here](#)]

#### **DEFERRED UNTIL LATER MEETING**

### IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

#### A. GE Memos

- *Attachment:*    *UCOC GE Memo 10-15-19*

#### B. Scheduled Special Topics Report

- *Attachment:*    *October 2019-November 2019 Special Topics*