

Faculty Senate 4/22/2015
Year-End Report for the UPC

The Undergraduate Policy Committee, which the Faculty Senate has charged with considering University-wide policies on undergraduate academic affairs and whose representatives come from all of the colleges, met seven times during the 2014-2015 academic year.

One of the UPC's responsibilities is to review courses to determine whether they meet the criteria for computer competency and oral communication competency. These competencies are graduation requirements and are defined by academic degree programs. The UPC considered 13 courses and approved the following for computer competency: HIS2, Digital Microhistory Lab; THE 4954 Culminations; SYD 3600: Cities in Society; and CHM 1045 L General Chemistry I Laboratory. The UPC approved the following courses for oral communication: IFS 2XXX Communication Matters-Personal Responsibility in Public Speaking; ENG Orality and Poetics: Shakespeare's Sonnets; BSC 4945 Undergrad Supervised Teaching, FRE 4410 Advanced Conversation, GER 3400 Composition and Conversation, and ITA 4410 Italian Advanced Conversation.

The other major responsibility of the UPC is to engage in academic degree and/or certificate program reviews. Although the UPC has always participated in the Quality Enhancement Review Process (QER), this was first year in a more expanded-role. Subcommittees on the UPC reviewed self-studies, participated in exit interviews, discussed the programs under review, and constructed a report. That report was then delivered to the UPC at which administrators and program representatives were invited to participate. In 2014-2015, we reviewed 14 undergraduate academic degree programs and/or certificate programs: Economics, Political Science, Sociology, Public Administration, Business Administration, Hospitality, Management, Marketing, Accounting, Entrepreneurship, Strategy, and Information Systems, Finance, and Risk Management/Insurance, Real Estate and Legal Studies. The final reports will be submitted to the administrators of the academic degree programs in question, the Faculty Senate Steering Committee, and the Provost.

In addition, to reviewing courses and program review, the UPC discussed changes to the Dismissal and Reinstatement Policy with the University Registrar and recommended a revised policy to the Faculty Senate for approval, which it did at its October meeting. The UPC also discussed the issue of Course Leveling, which was brought before the Faculty Senate in March. At our last meeting, one week ago, the UPC considered a pre-proposal from the College of Social Sciences and Public Policy to explore the development of a new Bachelor of Science in Public Health and recommended its approval.