Undergraduate Policy Committee

The Undergraduate Policy Committee (UPC) considers University-wide policies on undergraduate academic affairs. This includes approving new degree programs and majors, reviewing existing programs as part of their regular Quality Enhancement Review (QER) cycles, creating and modifying general policies that affect the undergraduate curriculum, and considering requests from undergraduate programs for exceptions to existing policies. The UPC met eight times during the 2016 – 2017 academic year and its members participated in extensive coordination and collaboration on policies via email.

Five new undergraduate degree programs sought and obtained UPC approval for the "explore" or "implement" stage of new degree / major proposals: BA in Computer Programming and Application; BS in Hospitality Management and Tourism; BS in Global Management and Leadership; BA / BS in Entrepreneurship; BS in Biomedical Engineering. All were approved.

The UPC no longer approves courses for the special designations of Computer Competency and Oral Communication Competency. These approvals are now the responsibility of Liberal Studies. UPC members continue to act as reviewers of these courses, however. Additionally, the UPC and Liberal Studies continue to discuss policies related to Oral Competency, in particular the details on what type of courses should be considered valid for this designation.

Multiple undergraduate programs went through the QER process this year. The UPC reviewed the following programs: Family and Child Sciences, Criminology, Retail Merchandising and Product Development, Social Work, Biological Sciences, Interior Architecture and Design, Art History, Studio Art, Chemistry, Dance, and University Libraries. All programs except the Libraries will report back to the UPC at their next QER cycle. University Libraries will report back in two years. The UPC was greatly concerned about the status of the Libraries' budget. They have had budget shortfalls for the last several years. This budget shortfall has a negative effect on the sustainability of the Library's collections and will prevent the library's ability to meet new and evolving needs of faculty and students, despite the Library's use of innovate approaches to reduce the effects of the growing costs on its services.

The UPC approved two policy changes which were forwarded to, and approved by, the faculty senate. The first policy concerns final exams. Currently, a student is allowed to be given an alternate final exam time if they have four or more exams in a 24 hour period. This was changed to three or more exams in 24 hours. The second policy modified the undergraduate bulletin language on the time frame for students to declare dual degrees and majors. Given the increasing number of incoming students with many college credits, an exception was added giving them additional time in which to declare a dual degree or major.