

**Undergraduate Council  
Minutes of Meeting  
February 20, 2014**

**I. Meeting**

Pursuant to call, the Undergraduate Council met at 10:00 am on Wednesday, February 20, 2014, Chair Jay Sharping presiding.

**II. Chair's Report**

- Chair welcomed Jaron Brandon, the ASUCM President and interim UGC student representative.
- **Enrollment Management Council 12/11/13**

This is an interesting time for enrollment at UCM because we are not growing as quickly as planned and we are receiving a large number of applications. We are faced with trying to figure out ways to decide who gets admitted. The next EMC meeting is in two weeks. This year, the office has created an index which includes academic preparation and academic context scores, as well as human reads scores.
- Plans and strategies associated with the referral pool will be discussed during the VCSA report.
- **UCEP 1/6 and 2/3**
  - Moreno Report. All the senate committees are making sure that a conversation is taking place about the Moreno Report.
  - Discussion about the State budget – Things are somewhat better than they were a few years back when we were discussing how we were going to deal with enormous cuts; now we are discussing how we will deal with too small increases.
  - UCOE and ILTI – one UCM student is currently attending UCB. UCEP stated that there were 60 students systemwide. Online education is a big issue.
  - Transfer policies – President has indicated that we need to better address the issue of transfer students. UC does fairly well with the population of transfer students but there is a need to provide a rigid framework for transfers.
- **1/16 Leadership Council Meeting (formerly known as “Deans and Directors” meeting)**
  - Chair found the meeting interesting and plans to attend the next one.
- **1/30 Academic Integrity** (*meeting notes available on the task force crops site*)

The goal of the task force is to evaluate the approach and policies with regard to academic integrity on campus. This stems from previous conversations about the need to revisit our policy.

VPDUE report: task force convened for the first time in October and decided that more information was needed. VPDUE had a phone consultation with the Executive Director of the International Council on Academic Integrity (in Clemson). The task force spent some time in the fall trying to get a sense of direction and to figure out how to be productive.

**III. English Minor – Guest: Katie Brokaw**

Last AY, the Literature and Cultures major split into the English and Spanish majors. There is now the Spanish major and minor. The English major was approved last AY. The English minor proposal would complete the current curriculum. The English minor proposal is similar to the English major proposal in terms of PLOs. It is a six-course sequence that will give students both breadth and depth and will give them some historical context. PLOs for the major and minor are similar. Students will have to take more classes for the major. At the end, students' knowledge about English literature will be more comprehensive. The English major has a required senior thesis.

Will students be expected to get the same skill set? Why should they do the

UGC suggested adding a sentence to the minor proposal stating that PLOs are at the basic level.

A SSHA staff member noted that the similarity between majors and minors PLOS is common for every major/minor (ex: Psychology). Since minor programs tend to have less sequencing than majors, maybe there is something in the assessment plan that could capture that detail. The PLOs are the same but we would have a way for accounting for minor students who have similar skills but are not tracked the same way.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously carried to approve the proposal for an English Minor, effective Fall 2014.

**IV. GE Committee Report – Anne Zanzucchi and Rose Scott**

*GE response to PRC (6/2/14)*

The committee has been notified by the PRC that it would be responsible for GE program review. Since this is a fairly unusual circumstance, the committee decided to write a memo summarizing aspirations for governance for GE and accepted the charge, although it comes with some challenges. The committee also recognized that this arrangement is not necessarily the future of how GE should be governed. Steve Hart (SNS) has recently joined the committee. This is a significant development for the committee. GE committee will also be working actively with Student Affairs.

The GE committee has had various conversations with campus constituents, including school ECs, student affairs, and advising.

*GE Memo to UGC (2/17/14)*

Background: We have 8 guiding principles but in many ways they read like GE outcomes and they have served that function since 2005. Today's goal is to have an open conversation with UGC about what GE should be relative to the meaning of a degree and what is the big picture experience that we want out of GE.

It would be helpful to think about them as outcomes and consider the extent to which they are important and how they serve us well in other ways that may be limiting. It may be that these 8 GP or “outcomes” don’t really describe outcomes that we want for GE. In the memo, there is an embedded link with a survey.

Rose Scott will highlight some background detail about enrollment data so we know a little bit about exposure to guiding principles.

*From the GE committee memo:*

***What do you think GE should be? What do you think does or should distinguish our graduates? What general abilities and knowledge do we want to see in any student who graduates from UC Merced? What role does GE play in these aspirations?***

*UGC comments:*

- There should be a concentration on technological proficiency and computer literacy. It seems to be a very important skill for our students’ generation.
- Foreign languages should be part of GE guiding principles so students are more globally connected.
- There is a tendency in the literature on GE to focus less on content than on skill set (e.g., computer literacy is a skill set). There are other things like written world expression, ability to collaborate in a group with people with different skills.
- What should a baccalaureate from UCM mean in terms of educational values? What should distinguish our graduates?
- Looking at the history of GE in the original plan, Core 100 was designed to foster some important skills and we have moved closer to a menu model.
- Graduates should have the ability to fit in a large team and realize that everybody is bringing a skill to the table.
- Commitment to sustainability and green technology and research alternatives.
- Civic engagement.

GE committee also collaborated with the Registrar’s office to review all the courses that were approved as GE courses in the CRF system. Committee weighed courses to see what GE principles were addressed and what students were exposed to. Data shows that a very small number of courses are addressing GE requirements. The menu is nice but it is not clear and is not as open as one might think.

#### **V. Program Review Committee Charge**

The charge was revised by GC on 1/22/14.

Members were asked to review it and be prepared to vote on it at the next meeting.

#### **VI. Update on Enrollment – VCSA Lawrence**

VCSA Lawrence distributed some materials related to admissions activities and deadlines.

Report:

- The LREP enrollment target for fall 2014 is 6360, a net increase of 165 students over fall 2013 enrollment. 6360 is exactly the number we recently told OP would be our fall

enrollment. We cannot add students faster than we are adding, faculty, staff and classroom space. We traditionally tend not to hit our graduate student enrollment target so that often means new graduate students enrollment will be low and we'll bring in a few more freshmen. We are estimating 1430 new freshmen, 125 new transfer students. For the Fall, we had 17469 applications (2% increase over last year) and we are in the final phase of reviewing freshmen applications and will post admissions decisions within the next few weeks. We worked very hard with the admissions subcommittee and with IPA to make sure we don't over-enroll.

Q/A:

- Does this take us to the point where we are not the least exclusive UC campus?  
Yes, we are becoming increasingly selective
- Are we doing any discipline-specific filtering?  
Yes, we are and we are working with the schools to identify disciplines with over-enrollment and we are looking at majors that have capacity. We need help from the schools and the faculty. Members were asked to contact J.M. Thompson or E. Ruiz to coordinate efforts.
- How does the very low enrollment target affect the referral pool?  
The campus reached an agreement with OP whereby we will go into the referral pool only for those majors we offer and we will only admit the most talented students out of the referral pool. Everyone else will be admitted by school. This may mean that we'll have larger enrollment in the spring but this may be helpful to the campus budget.
- BobCat Day is April 12.

## VII. CRFs

UGC recommendations:

1. [ENG 135: Working Class Literature: British](#) – approved
2. [ENG 136: Working Class Literature: American](#) - approved
3. [PHIL 003: Applied Ethics](#) – approved
4. [PHIL 002: Introduction to Ethics](#) – approved
5. [CCST 195: Upper Division Undergrad Research](#) – approved
6. [HIST 124: African American History from Slavery to Civil Rights](#) – approved
7. [PHIL 108: Political Philosophy](#) - approved
8. [POLI 102: Judicial Politics](#) - approved
9. [POLI 111: Liberty, Equality & the Constitution](#) - approved
10. [HIST 124A: African American History to 1877](#) - UGC needs to discuss the seminars enrollment issue (120). Effective term: Fall 2014
11. [POLI 130: Institutions of Democracy](#) - approved
12. [POLI 135: Political Behavior Around the World](#) - approved

13. [POLI 155: International Political Economy](#) - approved
14. [POLI 160: U.S. Foreign Policy](#) - approved
15. [POLI 171: Politics and Film](#) – need to add class restrictions for sophomores/juniors  
Update: SSHA changed class level restriction to junior/sophomore/senior  
Current status: Discuss seminar enrollment issues
16. [POLI 107: California Politics](#) - approved
17. [HIST 124B: African American History 1877 to Present](#) – Pending discussion about the seminars’ enrollment.
18. [POLI 120: Voting Behavior, Campaigns, and Elections](#) - approved
19. [POLI 125: Public Opinion](#) – approved
20. [POLI 175: Advanced Analysis of Political Data](#) - approved
21. [POLI 190: Topics in Political Science](#) – this is a seminar with a very high enrollment – Pending further discussion
22. [POLI 191: Seminar in Political Science](#) – approved
23. [ENG 165: Tragic Drama: from Ancient Greece to the Present Day](#) – approved
24. [ECON 005: Introduction to Business & Finance](#) – sent back to SSHA for clarification of GE requirements: Syllabus doesn’t state why this course should be considered a GE course.
25. [GASP 017: Music and Society](#) - approved  
SSHA post-meeting update: Per UGC recommendation, adjusted the resource requirements to be less specific about the classroom required in an effort to be flexible for the future.
26. [ARTS 017: Music and Society](#) – approved  
SSHA post-meeting update: Per UGC recommendation, adjusted the resource requirements to be less specific about the classroom required in an effort to be flexible for the future.
27. [MGMT 028: Intermediate Financial Accounting](#) – approved
28. [MGMT 005: Introduction to Business & Finance](#) – sent back for same reason as ECON 005 above
29. [PHIL 111: Philosophy of Neuroscience](#) – approved
30. [PHIL 107: Philosophy of Religion](#) – approved
31. [PHIL 104: Ethical Theory](#) - approved
32. [PHIL 134: Modern Philosophy](#) – approved
33. [PHIL 101: Metaphysics](#) – approved
34. [ECON 028: Intermediate Financial Accounting](#) - approved
35. [GASP 002: Introduction to Music Studies](#) – to be reviewed at the next meeting (3/13)
36. [MGMT 065: Introduction to Finance](#) – sent back (same rationale as ECON 005)
37. [POLI 105: Interest Groups and Political Parties](#) – approved
38. [POLI 100: Congressional Politics](#) - approved
39. [POLI 101: The Presidency](#) – approved

40. [POLI 106: Urban Politics](#) - approve
41. [POLI 150: Causes of International Conflict](#) – approve
42. [POLI 108: Direct Democracy](#) - approve
43. [POLI 170: Theoretical Models of Politics](#) – request clarification from SSHA re MATH 5 pre-req. Discussed with SSHA after the meeting. Pending feedback.
44. [ENG 052: Politics and Prose of the Nobel Prize in Literature](#) –approved. Writing task force to consult with SSHA CC regarding need for pre-requisites for lower division courses currently listed.
45. [WRI 112: Writing in the Arts](#) – approved with one abstention
46. [ARTS 006: Introduction to Music Studies](#) - will be reviewed on 3/13
47. [HIST 133: Topics in Nineteenth Century U.S. History](#) – approved – add comment regarding enrollment sizes with seminars once UGC clarifies characteristics, guidelines. Revisit course.
48. [CORE 001: The World at Home](#) – Number of units corrected. Course will be reviewed and sent for email vote.
49. [PHIL 103: Philosophy of Mind](#) – approved.

**Next Agenda:**

- ELWR: The ELWR statement is included in the 2011-2013 and 2013-14 Catalogs but was not reviewed or vetted by UGC.
  - Actions Requested:
    - 1) Discuss current Catalog statement and policy options
    - 2) Propose a policy
    - 3) Review and approve new policy
- Revised PHIL PLOs
- Normal Progress to Degree
- Honors Courses in CRFs

The meeting adjourned at 12:00noon.

Attest: Jay Sharping, Chair