University Interdisciplinary Courses Committee

Description and procedures for handling Interdepartmental (INTD) and University (UNIV) courses

INTD Courses

1. INTD courses are intended to be interdisciplinary courses.

   By "interdisciplinary" we adapt the definition used in the Academic Plan and mean, broadly, that the subject matter or pedagogic method of the course reflects "the many strategies and methods used in scholarship, research, and creative work that entail crossing the boundaries of disciplines to address problems whose study and solutions transcend any single discipline (including interdisciplinary, multi-disciplinary, trans-disciplinary strategies and methods)" (Academic Plan, 9/3/08, p. 3, fn.).

2. Not all interdisciplinary courses will be INTD courses. Many will be departmental courses. Departments, and then schools and colleges, will have to decide if a course with an interdisciplinary nature is best offered as a departmental course, a cross-listed course, and/or under a subject heading. It is a school or college matter whether or not to cross-list an INTD course with (an)other subject heading(s) or departmental designation(s).

3. An INTD designation should signal to students, faculty, and the University community that the course adopts subject matter or methods that cross disciplinary boundaries.

4. INTD courses are intended to be interdepartmental courses.
   It is a working presumption of the UICC that course proposals that emanate from only one academic department and involve faculty from only that department in course development and teaching should be dealt with as departmental rather than interdepartmental (INTD) courses.

5. Course approval process:
   Departmental C&CC(s) → UICC → School(s)/College(s) C&CC [and if required: → Senate C&CC and GEOC → Senate]

6. UICC's review of INTD proposals is limited: UICC will look for a statement of why INTD designation is appropriate; existence of explicit agreements for resources and course administration; and appropriate plans for further approvals required.

UNIV courses

1. UNIV courses are proposed by and administered by university units that report to the chief academic officer and are not academic departments nor academic programs located in schools and colleges. University units that offer or may wish to offer UNIV courses operate with University-wide scope and exist to facilitate and complement the teaching and academic programs of the schools and colleges.

2. UNIV courses do not undergo the scrutiny of the C&CCs of academic departments and schools and colleges. Therefore their approval requires substitute procedures in order to assure appropriate faculty oversight of the curriculum.

3. Each unit that wishes to propose UNIV courses should have an advisory board with a faculty chair. While such boards are likely to have non-faculty members, a C&C subcommittee of the board should be constituted with only faculty as voting members. That subcommittee, chaired by a faculty member, will consider all course proposals emanating from the unit and report its actions to the board. Meetings of this C&C subcommittee and the full board will be minuted to record the curricular decisions.

4. Following unit faculty subcommittee approval, UNIV proposals will be submitted to UICC where they will undergo the full curricular review that would normally occur in a school or college C&CC.

5. All UICC-approved UNIV course proposals will be submitted to the Senate C&CC for their consideration and forwarding to the Senate. Thus Senate approval will be required for all UNIV courses.

6. In summary, the approval process for UNIV courses will be:
   Program- or unit-level approvals → UICC → Senate C&CC (and GEOC, if required) → Senate

7. UNIV course proposers should indicate whether they wish to use the letter or S/U grading system and the choice should be explicitly justified. Any repetition of a course for credit also requires specific justification.

8. At the time UNIV course proposals are forwarded to the Senate C&CC, they will also be circulated to school and college C&CCs for their information.