

## **Report to Senate: Interdepartmental (INTD) Courses**

Hedley Freake, Chair, University Interdisciplinary Courses Committee

March 26, 2012

The University Interdisciplinary Courses Committee (UICC) was formed in 2009. After a consultation process involving Senate Executive Committee, Senate Nominating Committee, and the Chairs of Senate Scholastic Standards Committee and Curricula & Courses Committee, the Provost appointed the voting members of UICC: Dr. Gerry Gianutsos, School of Pharmacy, was appointed UICC Chair; faculty members (and alternates) from each undergraduate school and college were nominated by their deans; and an additional CLAS representative was nominated by her dean as a representative from a regional campus. In addition, ex-officio members of the UICC (non-voting) were chosen to represent academic and student affairs units with existing INTD courses, as well as other stakeholders. The UICC serves to clarify and advise faculty members and staff who propose interdisciplinary and/or program-based, non-departmental courses on the approvals required. The committee provides oversight of INTD (and, once the new subject designation is introduced, UNIV) courses. UICC reviews course proposals prior to their consideration (as required) for schools, colleges, and Senate. Administrative support for UICC and routine matters related to INTD and UNIV courses are dealt with by IISP (Individualized & Interdisciplinary Studies Program).

The committee has met 7 times in the current academic year and this report summarizes its activities.

### **Definition and division of INTD and UNIV courses**

Building on extensive discussions over the previous years, UICC finalized a set of recommendations for the administration and oversight of interdepartmental courses and those courses that are offered by units located outside of the schools and colleges. The former set of courses (INTD) are more straightforward, since they represent collaborations between academic departments within or across the schools and colleges and are subject to the normal curricular oversight procedures of those units. UICC review simply ensures that the INTD designation is the most appropriate for them. Courses offered by units outside of the schools and colleges, designated as UNIV, require more attention and a specific set of procedures for their oversight. These procedures are based on the principle of faculty oversight of curriculum and attempt to ensure the academic integrity of these offerings. Among the procedures recommended is that each unit offering UNIV courses should have a faculty curricular committee, chaired by a faculty member. This committee should function to approve course proposals and ensure the appropriate qualifications, training and oversight of the instructors of those courses. Course proposals are to be forwarded to UICC after approval by this unit committee where they would undergo careful review similar to that performed by a school or college Curriculum and Courses Committee. Following approval by UICC, the Senate Curriculum and Courses Committee is to then review all UNIV course proposals. This provides an additional level of scrutiny, appropriate for UNIV courses given their non-traditional provenance and their critical position in the curriculum. This last act requires a Senate bylaw change, to be voted on at this March 26 Senate meeting.

## Review of Potential UNIV Courses

The distinction between INTD and UNIV is straightforward, based on who offers the course. UICC decided to take the opportunity to review all potential UNIV courses and the curricular oversight procedures of the units offering them, prior to redesignating them as UNIV. To date it has reviewed INTD 1800 FYE University Learning Skills, INTD 1810 FYE Learning Community Seminar, INTD 1784 Freshman Honors Seminar, INTD 4600W Capstone Course, INTD 4697W Senior Thesis and INTD 4800 Senior Year Experience. In addition it is reviewing an array of special topics and seminar courses. Particular attention is being paid during all these reviews to the issue of whether letter or S/U grading is more appropriate. It is expected that this review process will be completed this semester. A proposal to redesignate a specific set of INTD courses as UNIV will be brought to the Senate Curriculum and Courses Committee in the fall for entry into the Undergraduate Catalog for the 2013/2014 academic year.

## New courses

Two courses, both previously offered under the Special Topics framework, were approved: INTD/UNIV 2230 PA2SS Program, Mentoring African American Students and INTD/UNIV 2300 Tutoring Principles for Quantitative Literacy.

## INTD Course Statistics (2010-2011, with comparison to 2009/2010)

PeopleSoft listings of INTD course sections (based on data supplied by OIR)

	2010-11		2009-10		2008-09	
	Sections	Seats	Sections	Seats	Sections	Seats
First Year Experience Program (INTD 1800, 1810, 1820, 3984 – each 1 cr.)	305	4785	288	4419	268	4297
Honors Program courses (INTD 1784, 3784 –1 cr., and 3 cr. respectively)	28	483	29	484	26	440
Linkage through Language course (INTD 3222 – 1 cr.)	24	139	27	177	30	206
Student Affairs (INTD 1991, 4800 – 1 cr.; 3991 – var. cr.) (preAY11 data only includes 4800)	7	339	2	336	2	356
Departmental- and Program-based courses with individual catalog listings	19	189	22	237	22	221
Other INTD courses (including experimental, special topics, independent study, study abroad courses)	84	941	100	896	80	652
<b>Total</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>6876</b>	468	6549	428	6172

Every one of UConn's six campuses used at least two INTD courses to offer sections to its students.

2010-2011 instructors of INTD course sections were 34% faculty (tenured, untenured, adjunct), 14% graduate students, and 52% other professionals (09/10: 32%, 13%, 55% respectively; 08/09: 30%, 15%, 54% respectively).

## UICC Members 2011-2012

Faculty (voting members and alternates)		
Chair	CANR/ NUSC	Hedley Freake
Member	CANR/ANSC	Gary Kazmer
Member	CLAS/ SOCI	Richard Rockwell
Member	NEAG/EKIN	Laura Burton
Member	SFA/ DRAM	David Stern
Member	SOB/ACCT	Larry Gramling
Member	SOE/ECE	Eric Donkor
Member	SON	Jennifer Telford
Member	SOP/ PHAR SCI	David Grant
Member	REGIONAL CAMPUS	Edith Barrett
Alternate	CANR/NRE	Tom Meyer
Alternate	CLAS/ HDFS	Shannon Weaver
Alternate	NEAG/EDCI	Jason Irizarry
Alternate	SFA/DRAM	Michael Bradford
Alternate	SOB/OPIM	Ramesh Sankaranarayanan
Alternate	SOE/CSE	Ion Mandoiu
Alternate	SON	tbd
Alternate	SOP	Olga Vinogradova

Ex-Officio (non-voting members and alternates)		
Member	Enrichment Programs	Lynne Goodstein
Member	Inst. for Student Success	David Ouimette
Member	ITL	Keith Barker
Member	Registrar's Office	Jeff von Munkwitz-Smith*
Member	Registrar's Office	Marianne Buck*
Member	Senate C&CC	Eric Schultz**
Member	Senate C&CC	Peter Kaminsky**
Member	Student Affairs	Daniel Doerr
Alternate	Enrichment Programs	Margaret Lamb
Alternate	Inst. for Student Success	Maria D. Martinez
Alternate	ITL	Kim Chambers
Alternate	Registrar's Office	Marianne Buck*
Alternate	Registrar's Office	Lauren DiGrazia*
Alternate	Senate C&CC	Peter Kaminsky**
Alternate	Student Affairs	Sue Sanders

Administrative support is provided by Anabel Perez.

\*Jeff von Munkwitz-Smith left the University in February 2012. Marianne Buck replaced him as member, and Lauren DiGrazia replaced Marianne Buck as alternate member.

\*\*Eric Schultz is on sabbatical Spring 12 and Peter Kaminsky has replaced him as member during that term.