

## Senate Committee Annual Report

Senate Committee:

**University Studies Committee**

**Year**

2012-2013

### 1. What are the primary duties of this committee?

#### 1.32(11) 11. **University Studies Committee**

a. Charge: The University Studies Committee shall oversee the institution, maintenance, and development of the University Studies (general education) curriculum.

Specifically, the Committee will:

- Review and recommend modifications, as needed, to the general education program, including the associated goals and proficiencies.
- Develop and maintain criteria for courses meeting specific goals.
- Review and recommend new courses to Faculty Senate through the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee that will meet University Studies criteria.
- Develop and maintain a systematic process for reviewing existing courses that are approved for University Studies at least once every five years to assure they continue to meet current criteria.
- Recommend policy changes or additions needed to support general education at Southern Oregon University.
- Assist faculty or staff responsible for evaluating transfer courses.
- Work with the Institutional Assessment Committee regarding the effectiveness of the general education component of Southern Oregon University's undergraduate degrees.

### 2. What did you plan to accomplish this year?

- Work with faculty development on the Honors College curricula Integrations.
- Discuss and assisted, as needed, with House Building efforts with change initiatives, including review of House Curricula.
- Address BS requirement and where the oversight should be housed for approval.
- Devise strategic plan for soliciting, admitting, and assessing courses within UStudies curricula in relationship to GE policy issues. Addressed prioritization as a university this year.
- Increase communication with other committees involved with curriculum and assessment in areas such as rubrics to establish the validity and value of the program as key to career and success (and TracData assessment). This has been on an ongoing effort!.
- Worked with academic advising needs for substitution and University Studies petitions, and assisted with director hire as we move towards degree works.
- Change faculty, student, and staff perception from "checking the boxes" for general education to the overall value of SOU's liberal arts focus, especially as related to revamping towards new delivery (of teaching) using outcomes.

### 3. What did the committee accomplish during this academic year?

#### **TASK: University Studies Faculty Director**

Transition of information and responsibilities to Dr. Lee Ayers started in Spring term 2012. While on sabbatical fall 2012, Elizabeth Whitman served as University Studies Committee Chair

and moved the committee forward on goals and plans. During winter term, as Ayers returned, the committee continued reviewing courses and continued to build the University Studies courses approved for A – J strands. The Committee worked closely with the House Seminar development of a template to be align with USem (best practices) and Honors College Integrations courses.

**TASK: Reviewed and approved courses:**

**Foundations:**

***Strand A***

USem 101: University Studies, 4 credits

HSE 101: Green House/Social Justice Studies, 4 credits

***Strand B***

USem 102: University Studies, 4 credits

HSE 102: Green House/Social Justice Studies, 4 credits

***Strand C***

USem 103: University Studies, 4 credits

HSE 103: Green House/Social Justice Studies, 4 credits

**Explorations:**

***Strand E***

PHL 207: The Philosophy of Sport, 4 credits

ART 133: Introduction to Drawing, 4 credits

***Strand F***

NA

***Strand G***

ART/EMDA 205/205R: Digital Media Foundations V: Programming for Artists (2+2)

*Non lab*

**Integrations:**

***Strand H***

CH 325: The Chemistry of Drugs, 4 credits

ART?EMDA 331: The Art of Data: Visualizing Our World, 4 credits

***Strand I***

ARTH 342: History of Collaborative Art & Social Practice, 4 credits

***Strand J***

ARTH 343: Globalization and Contemporary Art, 4 credits

NAS 440: American Indian Identities, 4 credits

TA 458: Topics in Drama, 4 credits

**Integration Honors Courses:**

HON 315: Art, Culture, and Humanities (*Art & Value: Aesthetics Old and New*), 4 credits,  
*strands J & I*

HON 317: Politics, Institutions, and Society: (*Science, Democracy, and Citizenship*), 4 credits,  
*strands H & I*

HON 319: Science, Sustainability, and Nature: (*History and Biology of Disease*), 4 credits,  
*Strands, H, I, & J*

**TASK: Disseminate information on UStudies Curriculum and Courses**

Working with Advising for Raider sessions summer and online session:

- Overview of strands and University Studies coursework
- General Education Task force
- HEC task force

**TASK: Examine and/or suggest relevant policies having to do with curriculum design, implementation, articulation/transfer of credits, and assessment.**

Worked with Scott Morrell to try to align specific courses with transfer courses. (until he left)

- Met with Prakash Chenjeri, Honors College for integration templates.
- House models
- Eliminated specific courses no longer taught at SOU or being renumbered because of prioritization efforts.

**Working to Clarify policy on BS course requirements and approval process**

UStudies D strand approval alignment 2011-2012:

Using current goals and proficiencies and Hollins' Definition of Quantitative Reasoning (follows), members determined courses in Strand D must still have a primary emphasis on numeracy and quantitative reasoning.

*Quantitative reasoning is the application of mathematical concepts and skills to solve real-world problems. In order to perform effectively as professionals and citizens, students must become competent in reading and using quantitative data, in understanding quantitative evidence and in applying basic quantitative skills to the solution of real-life problems.*

(see: <http://www1.hollins.edu/depts/qr/documents/QR%20Monograph%20Final.pdf>)

**TASK: Work closely with Curriculum and Assessment committees.**

- Participated in Assessment workshops, bringing UStudies goals/proficiencies into program review and refining rubrics for assessment and accreditation and TracData.
- Worked with UAC on Capstone collection project and evaluation of department/program self-assessment of curriculum.

**TASK: Work Closely with Raider orientation and Registration (ROR).**

Summer session for RoR to be covered by both Director of USem and UStudies as the division of the role is define and aligned with University needs.

**4. What issues and/or additional responsibilities arose this year that influenced the work of the committee?**

- All UStudies petitions moved from the Dean's office of the College of Arts and Sciences to the Faculty Director of University Studies. These were covered by Ayers during fall (even though on sabbatical), winter and spring. There are numerous petitions that come in each term!
- The new House Model and prioritization of programs/departments influenced much of the work that was done or attempted this year. The committee is extremely proud of what was accomplished and looks forward to having a full committee to continue the work in 2013-2014. The committee functioned without a chair for winter and spring term.
- The committee was short 2 members for most of the year and two of the members assigned to the committee experienced teaching and other committee overloads prohibiting full participation with the committee.

**5. Given what you have learned this year, what goals do you recommend this senate committee focus upon in the upcoming year?**

- Alignment with UAC
- Focus on interim Accreditation report and TracDat alignment for assessment
- Continue to make sure all strand courses have templates on file with approval from

UStudies Committee

- Work closely with faculty who are developing UStudies course work
- Assist campus with division of USem and UStudies director petition

**6. Who currently serves on this committee?**

Robin Kigel (Student Representative, not available spring term class conflict), John Kinard (not available for full participation winter and spring term, teaching overload), Dale Vidmar, Kemble Yates (prioritization board, position covered spring term by Elizabeth Whitman), Eric Levin, Doyne Mraz, John Sollinger, and Erin Wilder.

Ex Officio: Lee Ayers (Faculty Director), John Sousa, Jodie Ruggiero, Sue Walsh

***Representative (2012-2013) as stated on the faculty Senate Website (needs to be updated):***

University Studies (7—one from each School and Univ Seminar)

Administrative Contact: Susan Walsh, Associate Provost

Ex officio: Associate Provost, Faculty Director of University Studies, Director of Admissions, Director of the Center for Teaching, Learning and Assessment (CTLA), Academic Support Program advising staff member, Information Technology (IT) representative, student representative

**One Year Term** Yates,

Kemble - Math Kinard,

John - Business

Sollinger, John - Usem

**Two Year Terms**

Levin, Eric - Theatre Arts

Mraz, Doyne - Usem

Vidmar, Dale - library

**Three Year Terms**

Wilder, Erin - Ed

**7. Who will serve on this committee in AY 2013-2014**

Continuing terms: Eric Levin, Doyne Mraz, Dale Vidmar (sabbatical library will replace?), Erin Wilder. Remaining positions and student position to be announced.

Ex Officio: Lee Ayers (Faculty Director), John Sousa, Jodie Ruggiero, Sue Walsh