

## Senate Committee Annual Report

Senate Committee:

**University Studies Committee**

**Year**

2013-2014

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

#### 1.233 (m) University Studies Committee

##### ***Charge from the Bylaws:***

*The University Studies Committee (USC) will oversee the institution, maintenance and development of the University Studies general education curriculum.*

*The USC will be composed of seven voting faculty members, one representing each of the following: the School of Arts and Letters, the School of Business, the School of Education, the School of Sciences, the School of Social Sciences, Health and Physical Education, the University Seminar program, and the Library. The chair of the committee will be elected from the voting membership of the committee. (needs updating on the Website)*

*Until the end of the 2005-2006 academic year, up to four additional faculty members who served as full-time faculty members of CREAC, will be invited to serve as voting members of the USC. The Associate Provost for Curriculum and Personnel, the Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Services and Director of Admissions, the Director of the Center for Teaching, Learning and Assessment (CTLA), one member of the ACCESS center advising staff, a representative from Information Technology (IT), and one student will also serve as ex-officio, non-voting members. The Provost will designate one of the administrative ex-officio members as the administrative contact for this 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 House Curriculum and University Studies
- Discuss and assisted with House Building efforts and Faculty Senate approval
- Recommended Sub-Committee for review of HOUSE templates, Honors Templates and BS requirements.
- 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!

- Create a stronger presence of Foundational Goals in exploration and integration courses through template review.
- Worked with academic advising needs for substitution and University Studies petitions.
- 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---on going.

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

- **House definition of what University Studies courses are completed within the House and the alignment of University Studies (general education).**

**TASK: Reviewed and approved courses:**

**Explorations: Template for Houses: (201, 202, and 203).**

***Strand E***

HSE: 201

***Strand F***

HSE: 202

Anth/Eng 214 Language in the USA

***Strand G***

HSE 203

**Integrations: Template for Houses: (301, 302, and 303).**

***Strand H***

HSE: 301

***Strand I***

HSE 302

BA 476 Business Ethics

***Strand J***

HSE 303

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

Working with Advising for ROAR sessions summer and online session:

- Overview of strands and University Studies coursework (ongoing)
- General Education Task force (Completed 2013)

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

- Formation of the Division of Undergraduate Studies
- Director serves on the Curriculum Committee and Assessment Committee
- Ongoing work with Admissions and Enrollment Services

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

University Studies Committee recommended and a Sub-Committee for oversight of all approved templates was formed in Spring of 2014.

***Subcommittee for Undergraduate Studies***

*The Subcommittee for Undergraduate Studies is responsible for reviewing all courses that are submitted under the Faculty Senate approved template (shell). These include Honors, Houses, USem, and Bachelor of Science courses. The Committee will be establishing the assessment*

*process for the University Studies Strand courses and with the approval of the Assessment Committee, University Studies Committee, and Faculty Senate. The Subcommittee will be establishing rubrics strand-level University Studies curriculum assessment. Specifically, this Subcommittee undertakes the following activities:*

*\*Conducts a comprehensive review of the courses submitted for approval under an approved Faculty Senate template model,*

*\*Develops and works with the Assessment & University Studies Committees to create the rubrics used to conduct the assessment of competencies for the nine strand areas identified in the University Studies Curriculum (Strand A – J) and,*

*\*Reviews courses submitted for BS designation.*

*Membership (2014 – 2017)*

*Lee Ayers: Curriculum Committee, Assessment Committee, University Studies*

*Deb Brown: USem, House, Faculty Senate*

*Prakash Chenjeri: University Studies and Honors*

*Kristen Nagy-Katz: Assessment*

*Dale Vidmar: Assessment, Library Studies, UStudies*

**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.
- Continues with UAC on Capstone collection project and evaluation of department/program self-assessment of curriculum.
- Updating the TracDat information for University Studies (ongoing)

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

- All UStudies Petition are now reviewed by the Director of Undergraduate Studies.
- The House Model and alignment of University Studies influenced much of the work that was done or attempted this year. The Committee was vested in making the right decisions for the alignment with our current model and House.
- The committee did not have a chair this year. For most of the year we were short a member.

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

- House and UStudies alignment
- Work with subcommittee to develop rubric for first assessment of HSE exploration courses
- Alignment with UAC
- Focus on 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

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Consider development of K strand, high-impact practices to be added to the University Studies Curriculum. Focus Groups, Task Force? How should this change be considered?</li></ul> |
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## 6. Who currently serves on this committee?

Ex Officio: Lee Ayers (Director, Division of Undergraduate Studies), John Sousa (Admissions), Jodie Ruggiero (Academic Support), Sue Walsh (Associate Provost)

*Representative (2013-2014) 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**

Levin, Eric - Theatre Arts  
Mraz, Doyne - Usem  
Rible, Jim - LIB

### **Two Year Terms**

Wilder, Erin - EDU  
Charles Welden- BIO  
Vidmar, Dale - LIB [on sabb]

### **Three Year Terms**

Chenjeri, Prakash - LLP  
Stonelake, Brian - Math

## 7. Who will serve on this committee in AY 2014-2015

Continuing terms: Sabbatical Replacements: Erin Wilder (needed)\* Charles Welden, Dale Vidmar, Prakash Chenjeri, Brian Stonelake

Committee Replacements: Eric Levin, Doyne Mraz

Ex Officio: Lee Ayers , John Sousa, Jodie Ruggiero, Sue Walsh