

Senate Committee Annual Report

Senate Committee:

University Studies Committee

Year

2014-2015

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. (updating on the Website see: <https://www.sou.edu/Senate/committees/universitystudies.html>).*

Suggest:

The USC will be composed of faculty members, one representing each of the following divisions: Oregon Center for the Arts; Business Communication & The Environment; Education, Health, & Leadership; Humanities & Culture; Social Sciences; Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, the Library, and Undergraduate Studies. The chair of the committee will be elected from the voting membership of the committee. Non-Voting members: Associate Provost, Division Director UGS, Advising Staff, ESC representative, and student member.

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?

- Discuss the University Studies Template for course approval all strands
- Create a stronger presence of Foundational Goals in exploration and integration courses through template review and clearer language requirements (carried over from 2013-2014).
- Discuss alignment with institutional assessment for University Studies Accreditation reporting efforts.
- Worked with academic advising needs for substitution and University Studies petitions.
- Continued a conversation with faculty, student, and staff regarding the perception of University Studies: overall value of SOU's liberal arts focus, especially as related to teaching outcomes (on going).

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

Reviewed and approved courses:

Explorations:

Strand E

WR 280 Introduction to Rhetoric
TA 167 Script Analysis
COMM 203 Media Literacy
COMM 290 Film Analysis

Strand F (None)

Strand G (None)

Integrations:

Strand H (None)

Strand I

MUS/BA 315 Business of Music
ARTH 346 Art and Sustainability
HON 317 Language, Law and Society

Strand J

ENG 447 African American Literature: Urban Realism
BA 476 Business Ethics

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

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 TracDat.
- 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 started in late fall and nominated and voted in Brian Stonelake to serve as chair. Brian has agreed to remain chair for the 2015-2016 year.

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 continues
- Work with subcommittee to develop rubric for first assessment of HSE exploration courses
- Alignment with University Assessment Committee
- Focus on Assessment conversation as we approach Accreditation
- TracDat alignment for assessment with University Studies and Institutional 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
- An extensive look at the integrations courses is recommended. Courses with several pre-requisites or that are exclusive to a major (such as capstone) need a second look. As assessments for the integration courses are developed, making sure that students have a pathway to complete integrations courses in imperative.

6. Who currently serves on this committee?

[University Studies \(7—one from each School and Univ Seminar\)](#)

Administrative Contact: Jody Waters, Associate Provost (*old language needs to be updated)
 Ex officio: Associate Provost, Division Director of Undergraduate Studies (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 (none this year).

One Year Term

Mraz, Doyne – USEM UGS
 Welden, Charles – BIO STEM

Two Year Terms

Chenjeri, Prakash – LLP HC
 Stonelake, Brian - MTH – Chair

Three Year Terms

Jones, Laura – DEHL EHL
 Fedorek, Brian – CCJ SS

Vidmar, Dale – LIB

One replacement needed. Charles and Dale have agreed to continue this important work in 2015-2016.

**Missing under the proposed language a shift to represent each of the divisions would be needed. Areas to fill include: OCA, BCE, and replacement for UGS.*

7. Who will serve on this committee in AY 2015-2016

One replacement needed under the “old” configuration. Charles and Dale have agreed to continue this important work in 2015-2016.

Committee Replacements: Doyne Mraz, USem/UGS representative