**Year**

2015-2016

**University Studies Committee**

## Senate Committee:Senate Committee Annual Report

1. **What is the primary duty of this committee?**

1.32(11) University Studies Committee (Note, this is different than what is posted on the Faculty Senate website: <https://www.sou.edu/Senate/committees/universitystudies.html> )

**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.

**b. Membership**

The University Studies Committee will be composed of seven faculty members from the following subdivisions: (*suggest revision of this passage*)

* *Three faculty from departments in the College of Arts and Sciences, one from each of the following disciplinary groupings: Fine and Performing Arts and Humanities Disciplines: Art and Art History; Performing Arts (Music and Theater Arts); Communication; and Language, Literature, and Philosophy*
* *Computational, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences: Biology; Chemistry, Physics, Materials & Engineering; Computer Science; Environmental Studies; and*
* *Social Sciences: Criminology & Criminal Justice; Health, Physical Education & Leadership; History & Political Science; Psychology; and Social Sciences, Policy & Culture (Economics, Sociology, Anthropology, Geography, International Studies, Native American Studies, Gender, Sexuality & Women’s Studies)*
* *One faculty member from University Seminar*
* *One faculty member from the School of Business*
* *One faculty member from the School of Education*
* *One faculty member from the Library*

**c. Ex Officio Membership and Administrative Contact**

1. The Associate Provost; Director of University Studies, Chair of the Academic Assessment Committee (or designee), and one professional advisor from Academic Support Programs serve ex officio. The Associate Provost is the administrative contact for this committee.
2. **d. Reporting, Meetings and Workload**
3. The University Studies Committee makes recommendations to the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. The Committee meets every other week. The workload is consistent throughout the academic year.

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**d. Reporting, Meetings and Workload**

The University Studies Committee makes recommendations to the Faculty Senate. The Committee meets every other week. The workload is consistent throughout the academic year.

## What did you plan to accomplish this year? This year the UStudies Committee set the following goals:

* Offered an Opening Session at Instructional Institute for faculty teaching in UStudies
* Update the University Studies **Template** for course approval **strands** E through J
* Approve submitted courses in a timely manner or offer suggestions for resubmission
* Promoted Awareness of University Studies through ROAR, Preview Day, and Advising Sessions
* Degree Works to update strand assignment: group meeting term x term
* Create an institutional view of FUSE to Senior Level Writing pathway for accreditation
* Align with academic advising needs for substitution and University Studies petitions.
* Provost’s Office detailed catalog alignment for approved courses (Website and catalog)
* Aligned House Experience to need demonstrated by Students
* Worked on Accreditation report and TracDat

1. **What did the committee accomplish during this academic year?** UStudies reviewed 40 applications during AY 2015-2016. Of those reviewed, the following 28 classes were approved:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Explorations:**  ***Strand E Arts & Humanities*** | **Explorations:**  ***Strand F***  **Social Science** | **Explorations:**  ***Strand G***  ***Science*** |
| MUS 205  MUS 206  MUS 207  ARTH 200  COMM 220  TA 246  ENG 295 | MUS 205  MUS 206  MUS 207  ES 200  NAS 201 | SC 110/110L |
| **Integrations:**  ***Strand H***  ***Science, Technology & Society*** | **Integrations:**  ***Strand I*** ***Citizenship & Social Responsibility*** | **Integrations:**  ***Strand J***  ***Diversity & Global Awareness*** |
| ENG 456  NAS 331\* | COMM 481  GSWS 410 | HST 342  NAS 375  PS 421  ENG 347  GSWS 311  GSWS 312  FR 326  FR 328  SOAN 337  FR350  COMM 350  ENG 447 |

**Courses Reviewed and Pending Revisions Before Voting:**

TA 352 I Strand

ART 210 (Print) E Strand

ART 255\*\*

ART 290\*\*

ART 240\*\*

\*\* Pending final vote from UStudies

**Courses Not Approved:**

(4) Integration H strand courses

**Courses Approved through Provost’s Appeal:**

\*NAS 331 H Strand 3/17/2016

Meeting with the Provost held 5/26/2016. Notes from the minutes attached.

**Second Look Request**:

PSY 437 (Creative Thinking) H Strand added to fall 2016

## 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)
* Degree Works and Website maintenance
* Catalog updates and Degree Works alignment meetings with essential players
* Preview Day and University Seminar, House Seminar, and Honors Seminar sections
* Faculty Senate minutes

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

* Director serves on the Curriculum Committee and Assessment Committee
* Ongoing work with Admissions and Enrollment Services
* Extensive cleanup with Degree Works Team to align University Studies for students
* Formation of the Division of Undergraduate Studies
* University Studies Committee membership fosters relationships to keep articulation current

**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)

## 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. This is reflected in the reduction of HOUSE classes.
* The committee started in late fall and nominated and voted in Brian Stonelake to serve as chair.

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

* Create an appeals process for courses not approved for University Studies
* Focus on Assessment conversation throughout our Accreditation cycle and continue after fall.
* TracDat alignment for assessment with University Studies and Institutional Assessment efforts
* Continue to make sure all strand courses have templates on file with approval from UStudies Committee
* 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.
* Review of general education total credit hour requirement.
* Audit of approved general education Explorations courses for application and syllabus alignment.
* 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.

1. **Who currently serves on this committee?** [University Studies (7—one from each School and Univ Seminar)](https://www.sou.edu/senate/committees/universitystudies.html) Website reports:   
   Administrative Contact:  Jody Waters, 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*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **One Year Term** | **Two Year Terms** | **Three Year Terms** |
| Prakash Chenjeri, H&C | Brain Fedorek, SS | Brian Stonelake, STEM |
| Roni Adams, DEH&L | Dale Vidmar, LIB | Charles Welden, STEM |
| Carol Voisin, UGS\* |  |  |

*\*not active* **Update: 03/10/2016**

**Suggest changes:**University Studies (7 members: Representation of the 7 Divisions and Library)  
Administrative Contact:  Jody Waters, Associate Provost  
Ex officio: Associate Provost, Division Director of Undergraduate Studies, Representative from Admissions, Academic Support Program advising staff member, Degree Works representative, and student representative.

**Positions needed for AY 2016-2017**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **One Year Term** | **Two Year Terms** | **Three Year Terms** |
| Brain Fedorek, SS | Brian Stonelake, STEM | Prakash, Chenjeri H&C |
| Dale Vidmar, LIB | Charles Welden, STEM | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ DEH&L or Arts |
|  |  | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ UGS |

**Additional Requests:** AY 2016-2017 to work on a process for appeals for faculty seeking University Studies status but not successfully receiving advancement through committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

University Studies Committee AY 2015-2016