

TO: Faculty Senate Executive Committee
From: University Curriculum Committee
Date: May 7th, 2017
RE: Activity Report and Revised Description of UCC Governance Statement

During the 2016-2017 academic year, the University Curriculum Committee (UCC) reviewed thirty-eight proposals submitted by faculty seeking Area of Inquiry/INTD designation for their courses. The committee approved twenty-three of these proposals (see attached document) and returned fourteen to faculty for resubmission.

Committee members also reviewed nineteen proposals submitted by faculty/staff interested in teaching First-Year Seminar (FYS) in the Fall of 2017. The committee approved twelve proposals and returned seven to faculty for resubmission.

In March, the committee discussed the Intercollegiate Missed Class Policy adopted by the Faculty Senate last year. After reviewing the policy and discussing issues raised by members of the university community, the UCC voted to defer to the Faculty Senate with respect to whether or not this policy should be renewed for another year and/or modified and adopted as a university-wide policy for all students who require accommodations for scheduled absences.

In March, the committee also reviewed the proposed standardized J-term schedule put forth by the Office of Student Records which recommended that faculty schedule common meeting times for J-term classes in 2018. The committee discussed whether or not the set schedule would be too restrictive on faculty in terms of scheduling their meeting times and in terms of faculty creativity in designing their course. A recommendation was made to provide faculty with the option of scheduling their course at an alternative time, but informing them that the cafeteria is only open from 12-1 and that their course might conflict with this time.

Throughout the course of the academic year, the committee discussed its own policies and procedures. The committee then generated a revised governance statement for consideration by Faculty Senate (see attached). This governance statement is intended to clarify and replace the description of the University Curriculum Committee located on the Faculty Senate website. Note: It was unclear whether or not Faculty Senate would need to vote on our revisions.

Chair and Vice-Chair for 2017-2018

The committee elected Dr. Carrie Dunham-Lagree as chair for the 2017-2018 academic year. Dr. Todd Hodgkinson will serve as vice-chair.

Charge for 2017-2018

Unless directed otherwise, the committee would like to pick-up with its cyclical review of Area of Inquiry coursework that was postponed in 2013-2014, after the UCC as tasked with reviewing the Drake Curriculum.