

Academic Policy Committee
13 October 2015

Present: Kimberly Ange-vanHeugten, Sarah Ash, David Auerbach, Alton Banks, Helmut Hergeth, Paul Huffman, Doug Pearce, Sheila Smith McKoy, Mike Devetsikiotis, Steve Porter

Absent: Rich Spontak

The purpose of the meeting was to review what the committee has learned about the Office of Undergraduate Courses and Curricula (OUCC) and its associated committees (UCCC and CUE).

Alton Banks began the meeting by reviewing a memo from the CHASS Undergraduate Committee requesting that the functions of OUCC be moved under the auspices of the Faculty Senate, with a one committee overseeing all course and curricula actions, including GEP approval, and another charged with considering broader general education issues.

This led to a discussion of the current reporting lines. While the UCCC and CUE are faculty-run committees (with Faculty Senate liaisons), and are therefore technically under the control of the faculty, the work of both committees is facilitated and overseen by the OUCC, which reports to a Dean who also oversees a set of academic programs within the University College. This creates a potential conflict of interest, and is of particular concern because of the increased number of new courses coming from University College for approval and because of the potential to house any new interdisciplinary programs within the college as well (who will review those curricula and their courses at the college level).

The committee decided to invite Dean Mullen to the next meeting and developed the following list of questions for him to address based on the information that has been gathered so far:

- What is the rationale for the current reporting structure of UCCC, CUE and OUCC?
- Is the current structure in compliance with SACS relative to faculty governance?
- What are the advantages/disadvantages of the reporting lines as proposed by the CHASS memo?
- What other responsibilities does OUCC have beyond facilitating the work of UCCC and CUE (setting the agenda, providing feedback to faculty, working with R and R) that this new faculty committee would have to take on (e.g., what are Dr. Kirby's responsibilities relative to OUCC v. the OUCC Director)?
- What are the advantages/disadvantages of the change in UCCC and CUE responsibilities as proposed by the CHASS memo? [All course and curricula actions run through one committee; larger gen ed issues handled by a separate committee.]

- Students have expressed concerns regarding the inaccuracy of 8-semester displays and phantom courses. Could OUCC be provided with additional resources (personnel) to help departments manage these issues?
- What is the future of undergraduate interdisciplinary programs—where will they be housed an/or is there going to be a common shell structure for their administration?