

**Undergraduate Council (UGC) Report**  
University of Tennessee – Knoxville  
Richard M. Bennett, 2015-2016 UGC Chair  
May 20, 2016

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The UGC met September 8, 2015, October 20, 2015, January 26, 2016, February 23, 2016, and April 12, 2016. The minutes for all the UGC meetings held in the academic year 2015-2016 are posted on the UGC web site (<http://web.utk.edu/~ugcouncil/index.html>). Nothing in this report supersedes or replaces approved changes in the UGC minutes. This report is for information purposes only.

Spring Elections for 2015-2016 Leadership Positions

Per UGC operating guidelines, several leadership positions for the 2016-2017 year occur in the spring. This included the election of Rachel Chen, College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences, as UGC vice chair; Heidi Stolz, College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences, as chair of the Curriculum Committee; and Jamia Stokes, College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences, as chair of the Advising Committee. Katherine Ambroziak, College of Architecture and Design, moves from vice chair to chair.

Reports and Presentations to the UGC

Numerous reports were provided to the UGC via university administration, other leadership and ex-officio members, including the Associate Dean's reports and the Undergraduate Planning reports.

Several presentations related to undergraduate curriculum were given to UGC members including:

- Student Assessment of Instruction System (SAIS) End of Course Evaluations, Jennifer Ann Morrow (October 20, 2015 and April 12, 2016)
- Experience Learning, Matthew Theriot, Associate Provost for Teaching and Learning Innovation, Chris Lavan, Experience Learning Director (February 23, 2016 and April 12, 2016)
- Recruitment/Admissions/Enrollment Management, Kari Alldredge, Associate Provost for Enrollment Management

Proposed Changes to Undergraduate Operating Procedures

- Several changes were made to the UGC Operating Guidelines. The changes are for clarity and flexibility, to formally address proxies, to update for changes to names of governing units
- Several changes were suggested to the Faculty Senate bylaws. Due to timing, these were unable to be presented to the Faculty Senate for their approval. This will be done next academic year.

## **UGC Committees**

### **Curriculum Committee**

*Chair, Gary Ramsey, College of Nursing (Fall), Katherine Ambroziak, College of Architecture and Design (January meeting), Heidi Stolz, College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences (April)*

Hundreds of pages of both consent agenda and main agenda items were submitted from the various colleges and units across campus, discussed at length, and most were approved with no or slight changes. All of the changes were presented to the Faculty Senate Executive Council, and then to the entire Faculty Senate. All of the proposed changes were approved by the Faculty Senate.

### **General Education Committee**

*Chair, Barbara Murphy, College of Arts and Sciences*

Changes in curricular (such as courses designated for General Education credit) were presented to the Faculty Senate Executive Council, and then to the entire Faculty Senate. All of the proposed changes were approved by the Faculty Senate.

A project is underway that is designed to improve the General Education Petition Database and process. This project seeks to avoid repetitions for petitions by creating a database of current approvals, which would allow transfer evaluators in the Registrar's Office to assign GER credits where appropriate without having to submit a new petition for a course that has already been approved. Details are being worked out, but everyone agreed that this project could result in an improved process. Issues that need to be considered include creating a written policy regarding blanket petitions for general education requirements, reporting approved petitions once a year, deciding on a schedule of re-evaluation of approved courses, and publishing approved petitions online.

The General Education committee developed expectations for phasing out a General Education Course. Currently, the General Education designation of a course does not necessarily follow the catalog. The expectation would be that there would be a 6-year phase out period for all courses dropped from the General Education list, thus tying the General Education designation of a course to the catalog year.

### **Policy Committee**

*Chair, Roxanne Hovland, College of Communication and Information*

A small change was made to the final exam policy related to changes in location of the final exam. During the discussion of this, several issues regarding final exams were brought up. Richard Bennett met with the Registrar's office and several faculty, and will be summarizing the concerns/issues and presenting them to Vice Provost for Academic Affairs RJ Hinde.

A catalog statement was added on SOAR, Summer Opportunity for Academic Recovery. SOAR is an academic recovery program for eligible students who are dismissed at the end of spring term and have not previously been dismissed from the University. SOAR participants are reinstated for summer term to provide them with an opportunity to return to Good Standing with focused effort. If a SOAR student successfully completes summer term courses, she or he will be given the opportunity to continue enrollment into fall term and beyond. Returning to Good Standing by the end of summer term is a primary goal of SOAR.

### Advising Committee

*Chair, Mary Anne Hoskins, College of Arts and Sciences*

The committee held numerous discussions on issues related to advising. One of the significant changes is an online module for students that are placed on probation to complete, rather than an in-person workshop. This was piloted in fall. It was so successful that it is mandatory for all students in spring. The online version allows for privacy, is available for all students on probation – not just first-time freshmen for their first semester, and doesn't require space in the increasingly tight real estate market on campus. Students returning from probation or dismissal will take the workshop as well. The requirement is the online module plus two follow-up coaching appointments. Over 90% of students placed on probation at the end of fall have completed their required probation module. The completion rate for the online module is much higher than the previous in-person sessions.

This fall's Life of the Mind book is *Leaving Orbit: Notes from the Last Days of American Spaceflight* by Margaret Lazarus Dean, Associate Professor in UTK Department of English.

### Appeals Committee

*Lisa Schoenbach, College of Arts and Sciences*

The Appeals Committee discussed numerous issues and addressed numerous appeals throughout the academic calendar. The readmission and reinstatement recap figures will be generated in the fall 2016 for the academic year 2015---2016. Specific readmission and reinstatement recap figures are included in the October 20, 2015 UGC minutes for 2008 – 2015. The number of dismissals, number of appeals, percentage of appeals granted, appeals of students dismissed for the first time, appeals from students dismissed more than once, and readmission appeals were reasonably consistent with previous years.