

Motion presented to Faculty Senate 5/06/14
Office of University-Wide Courses and Programs

In order to provide more consistent academic oversight and support for non-departmentalized curricular initiatives, we recommend the establishment of a new entity (called the Office of University-Wide Courses and Programs). The Office will be led by a .25 FTE faculty director and supported by a .5 FTE Keyboard Specialist. The faculty director is chosen by the UUCC (University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee) and reports directly to both the Provost's office and the UUCC. The report of the University-Wide Courses and Programs oversight committee is included with the annual UUCC report to the Faculty Senate.

Rationale

In recent years there has been an increase in the number of University-wide courses, inter/transdisciplinary courses or academic programs, and other non-departmentalized academic course offerings. In the past, the approach that has been taken to provide academic oversight of these many and varied curricular initiatives has been to ask the individual units offering the courses to form their own faculty oversight committees; originally, these committees were asked to provide regular reports to the University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee but this frequently did not happen and over time the extent and rigor of faculty oversight has varied widely. In addition, regular tasks like course-building and assistance for course development have been distributed widely and in some cases are being handled by staff whose infrequent use of these processes can lead to a variety of practical challenges.

The establishment of a Faculty Director with a mandate to provide organizational leadership for this broad academic oversight will provide consistency and continuity across all of the varied initiatives and ensure that they continue to meet Binghamton's academic standards while also remaining current as new policies or directions are established by the University. The faculty director will report to the Provost's office and also to the University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, with whom s/he will work closely in providing academic oversight. This proposal anticipates that several designated members of the UUCC, together with several other faculty members appointed by the Provost, will be led by the faculty director to form a university-wide Faculty Oversight Committee that will provide academic oversight for all non-departmentalized curricular initiatives that:

- a) are not based in a School or College, or
- b) offer undergraduate courses or degree programs (including possible future minors or majors) that are not tied to a particular School/College or departmental course rubric

The new Office will serve to consolidate academic oversight responsibilities; programs and initiatives are encouraged to maintain their existing faculty advisory committees in order to benefit from faculty expertise in the broad range of issues that are associated with program development and planning.

Current courses and/or programs that would fall under this new oversight structure include, but may not be limited to, the following:

- Outdoor Pursuits courses
- CDCI courses offered by the Career Development Center
- Binghamton Scholars Program
- University-wide courses offered under the UNIV rubric
- ROTC courses