

**UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL**  
**March 6, 2008**  
**3:30pm**  
**VH 1424**

**Members Present:** Alan Davis, Steve Smith, Bev Perrachione, David McKamie, Eric Jewell, Jay Self, Royce Kallerud, Janet Romine, John Neitzke, David Garth, Cynthia Cooper, Candy Young, James Przybylski, Dereck Daschke, Lizz Esfeld, David Hayes, JoEllen Flanagan, Sam Minner, Adam Davis, Michael Kelrick, Nancy Asher, Marty Eisenberg, and Secretary Daette Lambert

**Approval of Agenda**

**The agenda was approved by general consent as amended.**

**Approval of Minutes**

On the last page of the minutes, “1/3, !/3, !/3” was changed to “1/3, 1/3, 1/3”. **The February 14, 2008 Undergraduate Council minutes were approved with the change by general consent.**

**Information Items/Reports**

Governance Restructuring Committee Report—John Neitzke:

J. Neitzke said the committee is at the stage where they are going to formulate models, but they have not begun to do so yet.

UGC Chair Report—Candy Young:

C. Young said she spoke with the Commission on Undergraduate Curriculum. They are making progress but are not ready to present potential models yet. L. Esfeld, Student Senate representative to the Commission, mentioned that they are currently looking at curricular information from specific schools, and the last time they met they discussed things they liked that they saw in other schools and how those things might look here at Truman. The Commission has taken into account the main focus of each school’s curriculum and its affects on other aspects of the school (i.e. six-year graduation rates, etc.). The web address for the Commission’s grid on curricular ideas is:

[http://rcp.truman.edu/curriculum\\_commission/curricular\\_ideas.htm](http://rcp.truman.edu/curriculum_commission/curricular_ideas.htm).

Course Updates (POL 344, BSAD 420, ECON 345, ECON 373, ECON 467):

POL 344 is changing from WE2 – section specific to WE1. The other course changes concern prerequisites, mainly adding ECON 205 and STAT 290.

**Old Business**

Course Syllabi Draft Resolution:

C. Young noted that Council members asked for additional time prior to consideration of this resolution and asked whether members were ready to consider it given the short time between February’s and March’s meetings.

Discussion: E. Jewell asked why students want this—what is the root of the request. L. Esfeld said it is the same idea as the professor ratings: students want to know about the courses they are registering for. E. Jewell said he does not think having this information available will have much effect on which classes students register for, especially concerning courses that use a general syllabus. L. Esfeld said while the general syllabi may not have much of an effect on students, she believes other course syllabi that are more specific would. E. Jewell asked what would happen if a syllabus was posted at the time of registration, but then changes were made to the syllabus between then and the start of the course so that the enrolled student is surprised when the course syllabus is not the same syllabus he or she had viewed while registering. L. Esfeld said that there would need to be a disclaimer stating that professors could make changes to the syllabi at any time. R. Kallerud said he sees the potential for positive outcomes of posting the syllabi, but raised concerns as well in terms of faculty needing to make substantial changes to a course. Council members also discussed what would be an efficient way for syllabi to be posted. L. Esfeld said she just wants UGC to ask others to consider this resolution. C. Cooper asked if students actually want a syllabus or if they want to know about the course and what they're getting into. D. Daschke mentioned that in the Philosophy and Religion Department, a brochure is created each semester containing the courses being offered that semester, course descriptions by the faculty member teaching the course/section, and faculty biographies. He wondered if something like this is what the students are really after. C. Cooper suggested having a standardized form that faculty can fill out within their degree of comfort. Another option would be to have videos of faculty speaking to students posted on a website. L. Esfeld noted that having syllabi would give students a really good idea of the class and all that it entails. R. Kallerud said students really just want to know what a class is like, and he is afraid that posted syllabi could be viewed as a contract. L. Esfeld mentioned again posting a disclaimer, but D. Daschke said syllabi will be viewed as contracts by the students with or without a disclaimer. J. Self pondered why students do not visit the actual faculty member and speak face-to-face about the class and how he or she will specifically teach it. C. Young said this resolution is attempting to institutionalize this process and make the information easily accessible to all. L. Esfeld said the syllabi are already available to students as faculty are required to submit them each semester. C. Young asked whether there is any evidence of student demand; it seems few students seek out the opportunity to review syllabi. L. Esfeld said students are probably either not aware of their accessibility or consider it too time-consuming to trek around collecting them all. J. Self mentioned it is also time-consuming for faculty to post syllabi each semester. **C. Cooper moved to approve the resolution. Sam Minner seconded.** M. Kelrick said some faculty may wish to exclude part of the syllabus from being posted because it is personal intellectual property. He asked what happened to the effort to connect with people directly. L. Esfeld said faculty would never be expected to post everything, and students are already not going to professors—they're using websites instead such as <http://www.ratemyteachers.com/>. J. Self asked if posting syllabi would lessen the use of websites. L. Esfeld said she thinks so, which in her opinion would be a good thing. C. Young noted that the general UGC position on possibly posting syllabi would at a minimum require: a disclaimer that the posted syllabi may undergo significant revision for the next semester, an acceptance that faculty would have the option to post or not post the syllabi, and faculty may post a complete or shortened version of their syllabi. D. Hayes said the Faculty Senate Committee to Implement the Instructor Ratings Process will have to meet and provide some way to give information about its meeting to students. E. Jewell asked what will happen to the resolution after it goes to the committee. C. Young said she thinks it will go to Faculty Senate; she is on the committee and can report back to UGC. **The motion passed with a vote of 11 aye, 3 no, and 1 abstention.**

### **New Business**

ENG 415 Children's Literature & ENG 416 Literature for Young Adults (removing the General Honors designation):

Discussion: S. Minner said the reason for removing the General Honors designation (to control enrollment) seemed odd to him; he thinks students should be encouraged to pursue General Honors if they can. R. Kallerud mentioned English staffing issues and the large demand for these classes that have limited seats. D. Hayes said he heard Dr. Burton give a presentation a few years ago in which she mentioned that students do not take advantage of General Honors, and more will graduate with a 4.0 than with General Honors. D. Hayes said he thinks we should expand the General Honors options instead of reducing them. C. Young asked whether ENG 415 and ENG 416 are becoming so large that faculty have had to adapt pedagogy, therefore preventing them from meeting the General Honors requirements. C. Cooper asked how often the courses are taught. R. Kallerud said they are taught once a year due to a small English Staff. D. Daschke asked if R. Kallerud can get information that would reveal how many students take ENG 415 and ENG 416 because they are General Honors courses. R. Kallerud will talk with his department and report back to UGC at April's meeting.

POL 230 Model UN/Country Studies (new Intercultural course):

C. Young noted that this course has come to UGC because it wants to meet the Intercultural LSP requirement. There was no discussion. **D. Daschke moved to make this course an action item and approve it as Intercultural. J. Self seconded. The vote passed with a vote of 14 aye, 0 no, and 1 abstention.**

HIST 3xx Women in Latin American History and HIST 3xx Latin American History at the Movies (new Intercultural and General Honors courses):

There was no discussion. **Adam Davis moved to make these two courses action items and to approve them today. J. Przybylski seconded. The vote passed with a vote of 14 aye, 0 no, and 1 abstention.**

**Announcements**

No announcements were made.

**Adjournment**

**C. Young adjourned the March 6, 2008 Undergraduate Council meeting at 4:20pm.**

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