

**UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING**  
**August 31, 2006**  
**3:30pm**  
**SUB Alumni Room**

**Members present:** Candy Young, Royce Kallerud, Alan Davis, Steve Smith, Peter Kelly, Wynne Wilbur, Mira Frisch, Sharon McGahan, Betty McLane-Iles, Jay Self, Janet Romine, James Hirner, John Neitzke, David Garth, Cynthia Cooper, Vaughan Pultz, Patricia Burton (for Terry Olson), Dereck Daschke, Linda Schulte, Emily Meyer, Tim Gerhart, Scott Ellis, Garry Gordon, Adam Davis, Kay Anderson, Marty Eisenberg, and secretary Erika Woehlk

**Guests:** Sue Pieper (VPAA Office), Jeff Romine (BU), and Andrea O'Brien (Res. Life)

**Call to Order**

Chair Candy Young called the August 31, 2006 meeting of the Undergraduate Council to order at 3:34pm in the SUB Alumni Room.

**Welcome and Re-Introductions**

C. Young welcomed the Undergraduate Council to the first fall meeting. Each UGC member made introductions.

**Approval of Minutes**

**The May 10, 2006 minutes were approved by general consent.**

**Information Items**

Report from UGC Chair Candy Young:

The work of the Commission on Undergraduate Curriculum will be the primary focus for this year. UGC members should remind their divisions to nominate a candidate in time for the October 12 UGC meeting.

The recipients of summer Curriculum Position Paper Grants will be presenting their position papers at upcoming Undergraduate Council meetings. There is also a series set up through the Center for Teaching and Learning on Thursdays, beginning September 14, for the Grant recipients. Each recipient will present at a UGC meeting or Thursday Lunch. Please remind your colleagues of the lunch series and encourage them to participate in this curriculum conversation.

The Board of Governors reviewed the Strategic Planning Advisory Committee's draft strategic plan at its June meeting and did show interest in the curriculum review process.

Report from VPAA Garry Gordon:

G. Gordon distributed copies of an article by Robert Barr and John Tagg called, "From Teaching to Learning – A New Paradigm for Undergraduate Education."

G. Gordon reported having an interesting experience leading a discussion session on the required DuBois reading with first-year students. After the discussion, one student remarked, “Thank you for making this presentation of value to me.” As we work with students, we need to think about how to enhance students’ feeling of finding value in their educational experiences. The Vice President responded positively to comments that he heard at the Strategic Planning and Assessment Workshop about finding campus initiatives that we can all support. Barr and Tagg’s learning paradigm is something we should all acquaint ourselves with as we begin work on initiatives in the Strategic Plan, especially as we work to create a new curriculum. Learning about how college students learn is one way to improve their experiences. That’s what the article is about. Universities should take responsibility for more than providing instruction; they need to be responsible for the degree to which students learn. G. Gordon recommends that the UGC engage in the ideas contained in the article and also in John Tagg’s book, *The Learning Paradigm College*. He is willing to purchase copies of the book for members of Undergraduate Council.

HIST 334 Introduction to Public History:

HIST 334 is changing its designation from “general history” to “US history.”

HIST 335 Oral History:

HIST 335 is changing its designation from “general history” to “US history.”

BSAD 443 Management Information Systems:

After no objections, BSAD 443 was added to the Information Items agenda as a new writing-enhanced course. The course meets writing-enhanced templates 1 and 5.

**Old Business**

SB #5105 Changes in Minors:

The Faculty Senate would like the Undergraduate Council’s input on the content of this bill. The bill is clarifying the process that the Faculty Senate goes through when changes to minors appear on its agenda. It also specifies that the Undergraduate Council will be responsible for notifying affected disciplines of changes to minors.

Discussion: The Vice President’s Office already makes sure, through Deans’ meetings and other communications, that the affected disciplines know about changes to minors before they are fully approved. This bill is clarifying that process and also making the UGC responsible for communications. How will this impact the UGC? It technically won’t – representatives have always been responsible for communicating agenda items back to their divisions.

**V. Pultz moved that the Undergraduate Council convey its support of the bill as written to the Faculty Senate. S. McGahan seconded. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.**

Change to Bylaws:

This resolution was written in order to address the potential conflict of interest an Undergraduate Council Chair may have with his/her division’s interests and the inherent neutrality of the job. However, most members felt that the current process is functioning well, and after some discussion, the bill was removed from the table.

Follow-up to the Minor Committee:

Last year, a subcommittee of the Undergraduate Council was formed to address possible changes to the administration and assessment of minor programs. The committee did not make any formal

recommendations last year. C. Young will contact the committee chair and ask her about the progress of the committee's work.

### **New Business**

#### Election of Members to the 2006-2007 Attendance Policy Appeals Committee:

This committee has never met, though if needed it will address appeals to the University Attendance Policy. Volunteers were taken. Sharon McGahan, Mira Frisch, Vaughan Pultz, John Neitzke, and Patricia Burton will form the pool of faculty members required for the committee. The three UGC student members, Linda Schulte, Emily Meyer, and Tim Gerhart will form the pool of student members.

#### Election of a Liaison to the Assessment Committee Design and Implementation Group:

The UGC assigns a liaison to serve on the Design and Implementation Group. C. Young will ask Glenn Wehner if he is willing to continue as liaison.

#### First-Year Experience Task Force:

The Task Force started meeting in March 2005. They submitted their final report to President Dixon in May 2006. J. Romine and A. O'Brien distributed copies of the Task Force's summary of recommendations. UGC members received the entire report through e-mail. The major recommendations are the First Steps, a learning enhancement center, a summer orientation, and a slight cultural shift to focus even more on students.

Discussion: Question: Does the proposal integrate undergraduate research into the class experience and improve and capitalize on our undergraduate research reputation? Response: No, but we're open to that.

Q: What about staffing for the First-Year Interdisciplinary Seminar (FINS)? R: The report was written with an ideal in mind. That ideal will eventually need to be meshed with reality. The goal of 22 students per FINS course is a lower enrollment than the average for Extended Truman Week (ETW) courses at present. FINS cannot be added to the curriculum; something will have to go away in order that it can be supported. At the moment, the staffing question is a hard one to answer because it's a suggestion and not a final recommendation. So we'll be idealistic and say that staffing will be possible for the FINS. (On another note, the student representative to the Task Force even recommended that students be allowed to pick which faculty will teach the FINS.)

Q: What is the advantage of a summer orientation for first-year students? R: A summer orientation will remove uncertainty. We lose a relatively large percentage of our students during the summer even before they come to Truman. Last year, for example, we lost 25% of our incoming students. A summer orientation will let the students become acquainted, however briefly, with other students and faculty. The session will take care of the nitty-gritty of registering at a university. The students will feel a vested interest in the university after the experience simply because they can now put a face to the as-yet-unanswered aspects of their upcoming college career. The Vice President reported that there would not be time to implement the summer orientation program this summer.

Q: What should the Undergraduate Council do with today's report? R: Take it back to your divisions. Take an especially hard look at the First Steps. What do your colleagues think of them? Buy-in will be the single most important step to making the recommendations of this report become a reality. Proceed thoughtfully and slowly and remain open: listen.

#### POL 315 Principles of Comparative Politics:

POL 315 is being proposed as an intercultural course. **V. Pultz moved to approve POL 315 as counting toward the Intercultural Interconnecting Perspective of the Liberal Studies Program. P. Burton seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Announcements**

Commission on Undergraduate Curriculum:

The faculty nominations for the Commission on Undergraduate Curriculum are due to the UGC by October 12. Make sure you get this on your division's next agenda.

UGC Website:

The Undergraduate Council website is <http://ugc.truman.edu/>. It contains many useful resources.

Social:

There will be a UGC social immediately following this meeting at the University Club. Everyone is invited.

**Adjournment**

**C. Young adjourned the August 31, 2006 Undergraduate Council meeting at 5:16pm.**

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