

Commission on Undergraduate Curriculum

Whereas

- 1) Many within the University community have asked for a comprehensive review of the entire curriculum;
- 2) A broad study of the entire curriculum has not been undertaken since the mission change in 1985;
- 3) President Dixon has called for curriculum review;
- 4) Undergraduate Council has initiated a review of the components of the current Liberal Studies Program;
- 5) The 1994 Report of the Liberal Arts and Sciences Task Force considered the role of a liberal arts and sciences general studies program and the role of the major in accomplishing those liberal arts and sciences objectives, focusing on the general studies program;
- 6) The 1992-1994 Liberal Arts and Science Task Force provides a model for studying curriculum.

Be it therefore resolved

- 7) that the Undergraduate Council create a special Commission on Undergraduate Curriculum, a committee of Undergraduate Council, to conduct a two-stage study following the guidelines here delineated.
- 8) In Phase I, it is suggested that the Commission:
 - a) Review, evaluate and revise the objectives and attributes that Truman State University should have, given its distinctive Liberal Arts and Sciences mission and its status as a highly selective institution;
 - b) Examine the nature and meaning of curriculum, and how that has evolved over time;
 - c) Study the question: What does it mean for a person to be liberally educated in the present day?
 - d) Formulate a statement on the philosophy of a curriculum;
 - e) Propose one or more definitions of curriculum that this university can use to develop objectives and outcomes;
 - f) Consider the relationship between the Liberal Studies Program, the major, and other collegiate experiences.
- 9) When the Commission completes its Phase I report, the Undergraduate Council will call hearings and/or other public events to hear the Phase I reports of the Commission. In a timely manner, the Commission will report to the Undergraduate Council and will, through a campus process, seek feedback, make revisions, and submit their final Phase I report to the Undergraduate Council. Phase II will begin when the campus community, through a campus referendum, approves the report from Phase I.
- 10) The Phase I report will constitute the paradigm for Phase II, and will be the foundation for judging the Phase II proposals.
- 11) In Phase II, the Commission shall
 - a) Develop alternative curriculum proposals to achieve the objectives developed in Phase I, ranging from incremental changes to the current curriculum through more innovative proposals;
 - b) Link each element in these curriculum proposals to the achievement of the stated objectives;
 - c) Suggest a means for assessing whether the stated objectives have been achieved.

- 12) When the Commission has completed its Phase II report, the Undergraduate Council shall again hold hearings and/or other public events to hear the Phase II reports of the Commission, to hear the alternative proposals from the Commission and to obtain university community reactions and suggestions.
- 13) In addition to the 1994 Report of the Liberal Arts and Sciences Task Force, the Commission should consider other resources, including but not limited to
 - a) Documents relating to the university mission change;
 - b) The previous and current university Strategic Plans, master plans and self-studies;
 - c) The Strategic Planning Advisory Committee goals and initiatives;
 - d) Discipline five-year reviews and accreditation self-studies;
 - e) The report on assessment of the LSP, when it is available;
 - f) Assessment data;
 - g) Literature on curricula;
 - h) Student Senate vision documents.
- 14) Additionally, the Commission and Undergraduate Council shall attempt to engage the entire university community in this curriculum review.
- 15) Throughout Phase I and Phase II, the Commission shall hold open meetings, and will consult with all divisions, the Faculty Senate, and other relevant bodies to ensure broad participation in the discussion of curricular issues. The Commission will meet jointly with the Undergraduate Council at the request of either body, and will report periodically to the campus.
- 16) The Commission will be chosen as follows
 - a) The Commission will be composed of one faculty member from each division (BU, ED, FA, HPP, LL, LM, MS, MT, SC, and SS), one member representing the Vice President for Academic Affairs, one person representing student affairs, and two students.
 - b) Each division shall name one person to this Commission. The Vice President for Academic Affairs shall appoint one member. The Dean of Student Affairs shall name one person. The students shall be appointed by the Student Senate.
- 17) Should replacements need to be made on the Commission, the new member shall be chosen in the same manner as the selection of the original Commission.
- 18) Names of representatives should be sent to the Undergraduate Council by October 12, 2006. The Phase I report from the Commission is expected by the October 2007 Undergraduate Council meeting. The Phase II report is expected by the October 2008 Undergraduate Council meeting.
- 19) If possible, the VPAA and the Deans will equitably compensate members selected for this Commission.
- 20) The VPAA shall provide secretarial, web hosting, and other support, including travel.

Approved by the Undergraduate Council May 10, 2006.