

MINUTES
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL
February 23, 2005

A meeting of the University of Houston Undergraduate Council convened at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 23, 2005, in the Boardroom, Room 220 E. Cullen.

Members Present: Betty Barr, Roger Blakeney, Joel Bloom, Simon Bott, Lucus Faulkenberry, Sarah Fishman-Boyd, Michael Friedberg, Morgan Geddie, Horace Gray, Richard A. Kasschau, Ross Lence, Mario Lucchesi, William Monroe, William Munson, Charles Peters, Richard Scamell, Lynn Simpson, Barbara Snelling, Rebecca Achee Thornton, Larry Williams

Members Absent: Ed Apodaca, Margot Backus, Elaine Charlson, James Conyers, Martha Haun, Robert Mayes, John Zemanek

Guests: Dennis Parle, MCL/CLASS; Debra Frazier, MCL/CLASS; Marjorie Chadwick, Writing Center; James Arnold, RELS/CLASS; Dan Wells, Faculty Senate; Nancy Graves, HRM; Susanna Finnell, ADMIS; Fritz Claydon, ENGR/Dean's Office

Staff: Brian McKinney and Jeanette Morales

I Call to Order

Council Chair Larry Williams called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. Minutes from 1/26/05 were approved as written.

II Announcements

A Scheduled Meetings for Undergraduate Council, in the Boardroom, Room 220 E. Cullen, Spring and Summer 2005 Meetings: March 23, April 20, June 8, and July 13.

B Dr. Brian McKinney announced that Ed Apodaca, Assoc. Vice President for Enrollment Management will be leaving UH to fill the position of Vice President of Student Affairs at the University of Houston – Downtown.

C Council chair Larry Williams announced that he is forming a nominating committee to elect the 2005-2006 Council chair.

III Committee Agenda

A Academic Policies & Procedures Committee (Report UC 8482 05S)

The Council approved the following document:

UC 8476 05S: Spanish Catalog Change Proposal - Credit by Examination Option (Memo)

B Degree Programs Committee (Report UC 8479 05S)

The Council approved the following documents:

UC 8438 04F: Change to Religious Studies Minor Requirement (Memo)

UC 8472 05S: Mechanical Engineering Course Deletions (Memo)

UC 8473 05S: Biology Course Deletions (Memo)

UC 8474 05S: HRM Course Deletions (Memo)

UC 8475 05S: HRMA 1101: Decision Support Systems for the Hospitality Industry (Change)

UC 8478 05S: Architecture Degree Plan Changes (Memo)

C Core Curriculum Committee (Report UC 8483 05S)

The Core Curriculum Committee submitted report UC 8483 05S (Writing Intensive Experiences in the Disciplines) with six recommendations regarding UC 8477 05S report and ENGI 2304 (new core):

- a) “Three Institutionally-Designated hours, currently Social Science Writing Intensive, will be moved from the “Social Science” to the “Communication” category of the core. That category will then require 9 hours, 6 of which must be from the original list: English 1303/04, or 1309/10 (non native speakers) or 1370/2361 (Honors) or ITEC 3372. The final 3 hours must be Intensive Writing Experiences in the Disciplines. Those courses will all have ENGL 1304 or equivalent as a prerequisite.”

- b) “Writing Intensive in the Disciplines courses will meet the state requirements for communication:”

“The practice of writing is the primary focus of core courses in the Communication category. Instruction in writing should not be limited to lectures about principles of writing or to written comments on student essays. Classroom instruction should include extended practice in the major elements of the composing process. The course must require at least 3000 words of finished prose, that is, prose that has been revised in light of self, teacher, or peer critiques. All work done outside of class must be returned to the student prior to the end of the semester of the term with the instructor's written evaluation of grammar, style and content.”

- c) “Writing Intensive Experiences in the Disciplines: Exemplary Educational Objectives”

1. “To understand that writing is contextual and to develop writing skills specific to a disciplinary area through invention, organization, drafting, revision, editing, and presentation that addresses the disciplinary content and meets discipline-specific criteria.”
2. “To understand and demonstrate the shared writing conventions, practices, standards, constructs and methods of a specific discipline.”
3. “To understand and demonstrate through writing the issues and purposes of a specific discipline.”
4. “To understand and apply basic principles of critical thinking, problem solving, and technical proficiency in the discipline through written exposition and argument.”
5. “To develop the ability to research and write a documented paper or report that conforms to the standards of the discipline and to establish an identity in a particular discipline or profession.”

- d) “Departments and instructors currently offering SSWI courses can indicate which SSWI courses they want transferred to the new category. ENGI 2304 will be included in the new category.”

- e) “All colleges, departments and faculty will be notified that they may submit courses for inclusion in the new category by submitting a syllabus and explaining how the course meets the EEOs listed above. Existing courses from other parts of the core may apply to be transferred to this category. The Core Committee will screen courses for inclusion in the Writing Intensive Experiences category.”

During the discussion of UC 8483 05S, Council member Dr. Rick Kasschau moved a motion to submit substitutions to the six recommendations. Dr. Kasschau moved that:

- 1) “the Writing Intensive requirement of the University of Houston’s Core Curriculum be removed from the Social/Behavioral Sciences Writing Intensive requirements;”
- 2) “the Social/Behavioral Sciences Core requirements be collapsed into a single two-course, six-semester-hour requirement with all courses meeting this requirement subject to all eight of the EEOs currently applied only to the Social/Behavioral Sciences course; and”
- 3) “the Writing Intensive requirements in communication in a manner complimentary to its extant pairing with Social/Behavioral Sciences, the specific details to be developed by the Core Curriculum Committee for approval by Undergraduate Council.”

After frank and extensive discussion, the Council moved to table Dr. Rick Kasschau's motion and approve the Core Curriculum committee's six recommendations (UC 8483 05S report) and UC 8447 04F (ENGI 2304: Technical Communications – New core).

IV Old Business

Brian McKinney, Asst. VP for Academic Program Management asked Council for their input regarding UC 8480 05S: Email: Official Communication Policy (effective fall 2005).

V Adjourned at 4:30 p.m.