

COMMITTEE ON COURSES
OCTOBER 28, 2020
MINUTES

PRESENT: M. Tang, Chair; Q. Chen; W. Chen; S. Dingwall; E. Goodman; A. Loyd; Z. Qian; Z. Yang

GUESTS: B. Dailey, Registrar; N. Hernandez, ASUCR Student Representative; M. Miller, Course Specialist

ABSENT: W. Gui; B. Newman

Chair Ming Lee Tang called the meeting to order at 1:00PM.

The Committee voted to approve the minutes from the October 14, 2020 meeting.

The Committee reviewed and voted to approve the University Extension course proposals for EDUC X81.3, EDUC X81.4, and HIST XR17B. The Committee voted to approve the University Extension instructor proposals for the following: Green to instruct EDUC X86; Macias to instruct HIST XR17B; Tucker to instruct EDUC X81.3 & EDUC X81.4.

The Committee reviewed the course change proposals for TFDP 166A, TFDP 166B and TFDP 166C and noted continued concern that the revised syllabi for the courses do not provide a clear description of what activities are required of students to fulfill the extra reading activity. Additionally, concern was noted that the activities described in the syllabi for the reading activity do not constitute sufficient reading requirements to justify the extra three hours of reading. The Committee voted to return the proposals and request that the syllabi be updated to include sufficient reading requirements to justify the extra three hours of reading.

The Committee was supportive of all other proposals assigned for review.

The Committee reviewed the Systemwide Online Degree Taskforce report and applauded the taskforce's work on the report as it speaks to the challenges ahead for online education in the UC System. The Committee was appreciative that the report recognized that faculty buy in is critical for the success of online degree proposals and that existing majors should not be transitioned to online only unless reviewed by the Academic Senate. The Committee noted concern that the report did not address the motivation for developing online degree programs nor did it indicate if online degree programs would be implemented at the System or Division level. The Committee recommended that the report be updated to address revenue-based incentives for the development of online degree programs. Concern was noted that underfunded campuses such as UCR might not have the resources needed to support online degree programs and substantial financial support from the state would be needed to create quality remote options. Additionally, the Committee was concerned that the report did not discuss the issue of plagiarism and cheating in the online environment. Lastly, concern was noted that online degree programs do not provide students with a full UC experience including interactions with peers in student-run activities, research active faculty, opportunities for independent research and self exploration, and the development of interpersonal skills and study skills that result from immersion in the rich intellectual and cultural environment found on campus. The Committee was not convinced that UCR's broad educational mission can be fulfilled with online degrees. The Chair will summarize the Committee's discussion in a response to the Senate Chair that will be sent to members by email to be finalized.

The Committee reviewed and voted to support the proposed Classification of Instructional Program Process document. The Chair will note the Committee's support in a memo to the Senate Chair.

The Committee reviewed and voted to support the revised proposal for a joint BS+MS in Statistics five-year degree program. The Chair will note the Committee's support in a memo to the Senate Chair.

The Committee welcomed the Director of Summer Sessions Leonard Taylor and the Director for the Center for Teaching and Learning Richard Edwards to discuss a proposal for the development of multi-instructional modes for courses offered in Summer Sessions. Director Edwards informed the Committee of a proposed pilot program to allow for courses to be offered in different modes in Summer Sessions 2021 to reflect instructor's experiences from instructing courses remotely the past few quarters. Director Edwards asked the Committee what approvals are needed to prepare for the program and the Registrar reminded the Committee that approved courses can be offered in a hybrid format without additional approvals. The Committee discussed the approval process for courses to be offered online and the potential for additional clarification to be established to differentiate between remote and online learning. Director Edwards informed the Committee of the different resources that the Center for Teaching and Learning (EXCITE) provides to support online education. The Committee discussed online education and members questioned if students are willing to continue with courses that are offered in alternative formats to in person instruction. The Committee will work to update the General Rules and Policies Governing Courses of Instruction to include additional guidance for remote and online courses and provide a definition for hybrid courses.

With no other business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 2:59PM.

Approved: December 9, 2020

Prepared by: Beth Beatty, Committee Analyst