

**University Curriculum Committee
Minutes of March 21, 2012
DEV 202E**

PRESENT: Robert Adams (Chair), Gordon Alderink, Martin Burg, Anne Caillaud, Maria Cimitile (ex officio), Maria Fidalgo-Eick, Linda Grinstead, Christopher Kierkus, Vandana Pednekar-Magal, Jonathan Nicol, Mark Pestana, Glenn Pettengill, Ellen Schiller, Doug Way, Paul Yu

Meeting called to order: 2:06 PM

Consent Agenda

Approval of the Agenda for 3/21/12

Approval of 02/29/12 minutes

- #7621 EGR 458 CCP

Report from the Chair: no report

Report from the Provost: no report

New Business

- #7684 History Cognate Change

Action: approved

- #7683 HST 290 NCP

Action: approved

- #7634 Sociology PCR

Action: approved

- Definition of the "major GPA"

Question/concern: The Records office asked if UCC could define how a major GPA is calculated. Surprisingly, the university doesn't have a policy stating how it is calculated. In particular, should a major GPA include required cognate courses, or just those courses within the discipline?

Discussion: This issue was discussed without any resolution. The GPA in some majors does include all courses that are required for that major, even if not taught in the unit. Some programs appear to count courses only in the unit's major's courses. This is possibly an accreditation issue that will not allow a uniform policy across the University.

- **Draft policy on Honors designation on majors.**

Motion: UCC asks that the ex-officio send forward the revised honors proposal to the Provost for consideration and comment.

Action: Above motion carried UCC support.

Comments: Discussion on this topic was extensive, with a variety of opinions being offered as to what the Honors designation represents at GVSU. How can we recognize extraordinary students-with an 'award' vs students with 'honors'. The consensus appears to be that the word 'Honors' that is currently placed on a transcript should represent a specific 'curricular track' rather than serve as a way of indicating departmental recognition. It appears through review of some comments made on transcripts that "Departmental Outstanding Graduates" (1 per unit per year) receive an 'Honors' designation even though it is an 'award' or 'recognition'. If the UCC definition of the usage of Honors and the Honors college request is supported, then

some 'award' designation, such as that described above, could be re-designated so that the word Honors is reserved for curricular tracks, not recognition awards.

Questions yet to be resolve include whether this change will be placed into the faculty handbook and if so, where to be placed. Additionally, how to alert faculty and units to this change?

- Meeting adjourned at 3:55 PM