

## Memorandum



<b>TO:</b>	Kris Mullendore, ECS Chair
<b>CC:</b>	Lisa Haight, Provost's Office
<b>FROM:</b>	Robert Adams, UCC Chair
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	UCC 10-11 End of Year Report
<b>DATE:</b>	April 15, 2011

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During the 2010-11 academic year, UCC has fulfilled its regular responsibilities, as outlined in the Faculty Handbook. By the end of the academic year, UCC will have reviewed...

Course Changes/Drops	123
New Courses	89
Cognate Changes	4
Program Changes	31
New Certificates	2
New Program Proposals	2
Total	251

In addition, UCC responded to its charges from UAS/ECS.

1. Work with all departments/units to review the time-to-graduation of students in their programs and report on these findings to UAS. This review should specifically include: Working in consultation with the respective units complete the examination of the University degree requirements started in the 2009-10 academic year. Specifically, examine the purpose, goals, assessment, and future of the SWS and BS cognate requirements and consider such things as enrollment data, peer and aspirant institutional practices, and the goals and objectives of General Education at Grand Valley. Work with academic units and programs to identify possible curricular issues that may increase time-to-graduation. Review, in coordination with the Academic Standards and Policies Committee, whether Grand Valley's current course repeat policy has a disparate impact on time-to-graduations for any academic programs such as Biomedical Science, Chemistry, and Mathematics.

UCC could not identify any specific "curricular issues" that affect students equally across the university (e.g., university-wide issues). Time-to-graduation seems to be based on numerous factors, many of which are program and unit dependent.

A review of SWS was not performed due to pending changes to the General Education program. It is unclear how proposed changes to General Education may affect SWS (if at all). UCC anticipates continuing this charge next year.

UCC started to examine the university's repeat policy, when it discovered that the CLAS Faculty Council had already started that work. In order to avoid duplication of effort, UCC is waiting for that group to make a recommendation. UCC anticipates this charge continuing next year.

Regarding cognates, UCC surveyed units that offer both a BS and BA to see what distinguishes those programs. Based on the responses UCC will survey those units once again in the Fall before making a recommendation. At this time, three options present themselves and UCC would like feedback from those units that may be affected by a policy change. (1) Keep the status quo. Students earning a BA in a program that has folded the BS cognates into program requirements take longer to graduate than BS students in the same program because of the addition of the foreign language BA requirement. (2) Remove any mention of BS cognates. Impose no university-level requirement on BS programs. This is in line with many of our peers, but like the previous option this one does not address time-to-graduation disparities. (3) Require a complete separation of BA from BS cognates, i.e., forbid programs from requiring BA students from taking the BS cognates. This may force some programs to drop their BS or BA degree options (e.g., due to accreditation).

2. Oversee the online curriculum system to ensure it is up-to-date and stable, including the implementation of the new policies for the electronic submissions of Prospecti and New program/Academic Unit Proposals.

The forms and workflow for Prospecti and New Program Proposals seem to be working, although only a small number of proposals have used it thus far. The online system has suffered from other bugs due to a couple of factors: (1) the online system was completely re-written to accommodate the Prospecti and New Program Proposal forms, and (2) significant changes to the Course Change Proposal form and lesser changes to the New Course Proposal form based on suggestions from the Online Education Council. UCC and the Institutional Marketing Web Team are working to resolve all known issues.

3. Part of the review of the remedial (097, 098, and 099) courses requirements in consultation with the respective units and considering such things as enrollment data, peer and aspirant institutional practices, and the goals and objectives of General Education at Grand Valley might warrant reconsideration of their original purpose. It is unclear as to how course outcomes and goals are currently assessed. The UCC is respectfully requested to provide guidance regarding these issues.

UCC responded to this charge. See the memo to ECS dated October 15, 2010.

4. Work with Graduate Council to develop policies and procedures for dual-listed courses.

ECS/UAS approved a policy for dual-listed courses that was developed jointly between UCC and Graduate Council.

