Report to Senate: University Interdisciplinary Courses Committee

April 21, 2017

Eric Donkor, Chair

The University Interdisciplinary Courses Committee (UICC) consists of voting members and alternates representing the 8 undergraduate schools and colleges and additional regional campus representatives. In addition, ex-officio, non-voting members represent academic and student affairs units that offer relevant courses, as well as other stakeholders. The UICC oversees the interdepartmental and interdisciplinary and/or program-based, non-departmental curriculum and advises faculty members and staff on these course proposals. In January 2014, its mission was extended to oversee the Military Science (MISI) and Air Force (AIRF) courses, administered by the Office of Veterans Affairs and Military Programs. The UICC reports to the Provost's Office, and administrative support for the committee and routine matters related to INTD and UNIV courses have been provided this year by an Administrative Services Assistant assigned to the University Senate office.

The committee met 5 times in the current academic year. This report summarizes its activities.

Clarification and documentation of UICC policies

The principles for separation of the existing INTD curriculum into INTD and UNIV sections developed by the committee were approved by the Senate in 2012 (Senate meeting 2/27/12). The INTD designation is used for courses offered by more than one department from within the schools and colleges, whereas UNIV is used for those courses that originate from units that report to the Provost outside of the schools and colleges. The latter require careful oversight since they arise outside of the normal departmental and school/college curricula and courses review structures. The mechanisms developed for oversight for UNIV courses were built on the principle of faculty governance of the curriculum and attempt to replicate those used within the schools and colleges. The curriculum now comprises 17 INTD and 30 UNIV permanent courses, including special topics and independent study offerings. In addition UICC oversees 9 MISI, and 7 AIRF courses offered by the Office Veterans Programs.

The UICC has developed a policy guide to record their decisions on matters of protocol and a website http://uicc.uconn.edu/ to better communicate UICC activities to the University community and to serve as a source of forms and instructions for those wishing to conduct business with it. As part of its mandate to oversee the curriculum, the UICC developed a policy to govern the periodic review of UNIV courses. The units outside of the schools and colleges that offer UNIV courses are required to have faculty committees to provide oversight of their curriculum and this policy will specify the course reports expected from them.

Course Request (Add/Drop/Revise)

The UICC approved the following new courses:

- UNIV 1993 International Study (see Education Abroad section for reference)
- UNIV 2993 International Study (see Education Abroad section for reference)
- UNIV 3993 International Study (see Education Abroad section for reference)
- UNIV 1995 Higher Education in Brazil: Access, Equity, and Opportunity

The UICC approved the following courses designated as "university transfer courses by GEOC"

- INTD 91013 Non-Western 1000-level

- INTD 91014 Multicultural 1000-level
- INTD 91001 Bible 1000-level

The UICC had been asked by Student Affairs to drop UNIV 4800, Senior Year Experience. Student Affairs will no longer sponsor this course and there has not been interest from other areas (school/college, department or program) to administer the course. The UICC will leave the assigned course number in place but the course will not be offered at this time.

Items for Continuing Discussion by the UICC:

- INTD Designation by Undergraduate Admissions Office
  The UICC met with representatives from the Undergraduate Admissions Office to discuss how the INTD designation has been used prior to the creation of the UICC. Further meetings are planned to discuss managing transfer credits and use of the INTD designation.
- Special Topics at Graduate Level
  The subject was brought to the UICC for discussion. The UICC Chair will meet with interested parties to determine if this is an area the committee can and should pursue.

Periodic Review of UNIV courses

Good teaching practice requires that faculty evaluate their courses on a regular basis to ensure the efficacy of the pedagogy and the currency of the material presented. Academic departments often develop policies and practices to assist faculty in doing this and to ensure that their curriculum in aggregate continues to meet the goals defined for their major(s). UNIV courses are offered by units outside of the schools and colleges, and part of the mission of UICC is to ensure that oversight of these courses follows best practices. Thus, courses undergo rigorous review at the time they are added to the curriculum and our policies require that units offering UNIV courses have faculty committees that are responsible for curricular oversight. This oversight should include periodic review of existing courses to ensure their continued efficacy, consistency among offerings and alignment with course goals as originally approved. This policy is intended to support the faculty curricular committees in performing these functions.

This policy distinguishes between courses that regularly offer multiple sections (Course Shells, e.g. UNIV 1800) and those that are taught only once or twice a semester (Individual Courses). The oversight requirements for the former is greater since it has to include consideration of qualifications and training of multiple instructors and consistency and comparability across what may be a large number of sections.

<u>Course Shells</u>
Units offering courses with multiple sections/semester shall supply to UICC a periodic report for each course shell. This report will include:

- A listing of the offerings of the course for the academic year, including section title and instructor name and rank.
- A narrative description of how comparability across parallel offerings and consistency between repeat offerings of the course is achieved.
- Three representative syllabi from the course.

<u>Individual courses</u>
Units offering individual courses shall supply to the UICC a copy of the syllabus for each offering of the course. They will also report on any significant changes in the course since its approval by UICC.

In September 2016, the UICC completed review of all UNIV courses, individual and shells. The committee has developed a 3-year course alignment schedule for AY20-AY23. UICC Course Realignment Review Guidelines have been developed and approved by the committee to accompany the schedule.

Education Abroad

The UICC continues to receive requests from students to align courses taken while studying abroad. To date this academic year, the UICC has received requests from 24 students (up 3 from 2015-16) to accredit 38 different courses (up 3 from 2015-16) from 15 countries (down 4 from 2015-16). Of the 38 course requests received, the UICC aligned 29 as UNIVs; 5 courses were referred out to other departments within schools or colleges, and the remaining courses are still under review.

Given the value of study abroad to student learning and development, the UICC has been reviewing these applications and awarding mainly UNIV 1993/2993/3993 credit for courses that meet the appropriate academic standards. This allows students to receive credit even though these credits will likely not count towards major requirements.

A number of issues persist regarding study abroad course alignment:

- Some departments are either unable or less willing to accredit Study Abroad courses, even if the course is clearly in their discipline (e.g. some departments do not have general 1000- or 2000-level "International Study" course shells, so lower-level courses cannot be accredited within that discipline). As such, those courses get funneled to the UICC as a last resort.
- There is no centralized process for accrediting study abroad courses. UICC has been working with Education Abroad to resolve these issues on a case-by-case basis. Unfortunately, some of these take a lot of time to resolve causing delays and frustrations, especially for students.

The UNIV Curriculum

Offering unit	Course number	Course title
First Year Programs and Learning Communities	UNIV 1800	FYE University Learning Skills
	UNIV 1810	FYE Learning Community Seminar
	UNIV 1820	First Year Seminar
	UNIV 1840	Learning Community Service-Learning
	UNIV 3820	Learning Community Advanced Seminar
Honors Program	UNIV 1784	Freshman Honors Seminar
	UNIV 3784	Interdisciplinary Honors Seminar
	UNIV 1730	Holster Research Proposal Development
Career Services	UNIV 1991	Supervised Internship Experience
	UNIV 1981	Documented Internship Experience (S/U)
	UNIV 3991	Interdisciplinary Internship Field Experience
Center for Academic Programs within the Institute for Student Success	UNIV 2100	The McNair Scholar
African American Cultural Center	UNIV 2230	The PA^{2}SS Program, Mentoring African American Students
Rainbow Center	UNIV 2500	Gender, Sexuality and Community
Individualized & Interdisciplinary Studies Program	UNIV 2600	Individualized Study Across Academic Disciplines
	UNIV 4600W	Capstone Course
	UNIV 4697W	Senior Thesis
Other courses	UNIV 1985/3985	Special Topics (S/U)
	UNIV 1995/3995	Special Topics (graded)
	UNIV 1993/2993/3993	International Study
	UNIV 1983/2983	International Study (S/U)
	UNIV 1999/3999	Independent Study

The INTD Curriculum

Sponsoring unit(s)	Course number	Course title
Literature, Culture, and Languages	INTD 3222	Linkage Through Language
College of Liberal Arts and Science	INTD 3260	The Bible
Individualized and Interdisciplinary Studies	INTD 3584 INTD 3590	Seminar in Urban Problems Urban Field Studies
School of Nursing, School of Pharmacy, and Center for Correctional Health Networks	INTD 3200 INTD 4200	Introduction to Correctional Health Translating Evidence: Applied Correctional Research
Other Courses	INTD 1993/1999 3993/3999 INTD 1985/1995 3985/3995	International Study Special Topics

The AIRF and MISI Curriculum

Sponsoring unit(s)	Course number	Course title
Office of Veterans Affairs and Military Programs	AIRF 1000/1200	Air Force Studies I
	AIRF 2000/2200	Air Force Studies II
	AIRF 3000/3200/W	Air Force Studies III
	AIRF 3500	Aviation Ground School
	AIRF 4000/4200	Air Force Studies IV
Office of Veterans Affairs and Military Programs	MISI 1101/1102	General Military Science I
	MISI 1133	General Military Science: Air Rifle Marksmanship
	MISI 1201/1202	General Military Science II
	MISI 3301/3302	General Military Science III
	MISI 4401/4402	General Military Science IV

UNIV, INTD, MISI and AIRF Course Offerings (2016-2017, 2015-2016 and 2014-2015)

	2016-2017		2015-2016		2014-2015	
	Section	Seats	Sections	Seats	Sections	Seats

UNIV 1730	1	12				
UNIV 1784	30	513	31	527	30	515
UNIV 3784	3	39	4	51	4	45
UNIV 1800	104	1806	133	2330	146	2447
UNIV 1810	92	1490	81	1283	69	1071
UNIV 1820	42	559	52	726	37	562
UNIV 1840	16	248	16	216	13	171
UNIV 1991	2	12	2	8	2	6
UNIV 3991	0	0	2	17	2	8
UNIV 1981	2	17	2	8	1	4
UNIV 2100	1	15	1	5	1	11
UNIV 2230	2	157	2	163	3	136
UNIV 2500	2	29	2	26	2	25
UNIV 2600	2	44	2	41	2	24
UNIV 3820	18	240	8	119	5	52
UNIV 4600W	2	33	2	34	2	40
UNIV 4697W	16	16	12	12	13	13
UNIV 4800	11	238	25	622	23	495
UNIV 1985/3985	1	4	2	48		
UNIV 1995/3995	1	7	1	14	3	49
UNIV 1999/3999	0	0	0	0	1	10
TOTAL UNIV	**348**	**5479**	**380**	**6250**	**359**	**5684**
INTD 1985/3985	0	0	0	0	0	0
INTD 1995/3995	0	0	0	0	2	4
INTD 2245	1	39	1	40	1	36
INTD 3222	0	0	5	30	6	42
INTD 3260	1	12	1	22	1	12
INTD 3584	0	0	0	0	0	0
INTD 3590	0	0	0	0	0	0
INTD 3594/W	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL INTD	**2**	**51**	**7**	**92**	**10**	**94**
TOTAL INTD & UNIV	**350**	**5530**	**387**	**6342**	**368**	**5767**
AIRF 1000/1200	6	88	3	46	3	23
AIRF 2000/2200	4	66	2	16	2	20
AIRF 3000/3200	4	8	2	6	2	15
AIRF 3000W/3200W	0	0	0	0	1	8
AIRF 3500	1	15	1	13	1	12
AIRF 4000/4200	4	16	1	24	2	16
TOTAL AIRF	**13**	**193**	**9**	**105**	**11**	**94**
MISI 1101/1102	4	28	4	37	6	82
MISI 1133	0	0	0	0	0	0
MISI 1201/1202	3	33	4	32	2	25
MISI 3301/3302	4	48	4	68	2	35
MISI 4401/4402	4	58	4	68	2	40
TOTAL MISI	**15**	**167**	**16**	**205**	**12**	**182**
TOTAL UICC COURSES	**378**	**5890**	**412**	**6652**	**391**	**6043**

Based on data supplied by OIRE.

UNIV Courses offered at Regional Campuses

FALL	Avery Point		Hartford		Stamford		Waterbury	
UNIV 1800	5	77	11	270	10	226	10	170
UNIV 1810								
UNIV 1820	5	69						
UNIV 3784					1	13		
UNIV 3820					1	3		
UNIV 3985					1	17		
UNIV 3991					1	9		
SPRING								
UNIV 1784					1	11		
UNIV 1800					1	9		
UNIV 1810								
UNIV 1820	2	35	1	31				
UNIV 3784								
UNIV 3985					1	23		
UNIV 3991					1	8		

UICC Membership 2016-2017

Faculty (voting members and alternates)		
Chair	SOE/ECE	Eric Donkor
Member	SOE/CEE	Sarira Motaref
Member	CLAS/ HDFS	Shannon Weaver
Member	NEAG/EDLR	Laura Burton
Member	SFA/ DRAM	David Stern
Member	SOB/ACCT	Larry Gramling
Member	CAHNR/NUSC	Hedley Freake
Member	SON	Kyle Baumbauer
Member	SOP/ PHAR SCI	David Grant
Member	REGIONAL/ENGL	Pamela Bedore
Alternate	CAHNR/ANTH	Sam Martinez
Alternate	CLAS/ GEOG	Chuanrong Zhang
Alternate	NEAG/EDCI	Rachael Gabriel
Alternate	SFA/DRAM	Ed Weingart
Alternate	SOB/MRKT	Nicholas Lurie
Alternate	SOE/ECE	Shengli Zhou
Alternate	SON	Thomas Long
Alternate	SOP/ PHAR SCI	Robin Bogner
Alternate	REGIONAL/Pub Pol	Thomas Craemer
Ex-Officio (non-voting members and alternates)		
Member	Enrichment Programs	Jaclyn Chancey
Member	Inst. for Student Success	David Ouimette
Member	Center for Career Devel.	Jim Lowe
Member	Registrar's Office	Marianne Buck
Member	Student Affairs	Maureen Armstrong
Member	VA and Military Programs	Alyssa Kelleher
Alternate	Enrichment Programs	Monica van Beusekom
Alternate	Inst. for Student Success	Maria D. Martinez
Alternate	Center for Career Devel.	Beth Settje
Alternate	Registrar's Office	Marcus Hatfield
Alternate	Senate C&CC	Mike Darre
Alternate	Student Affairs	Daniel Doerr
Alternate	VA and Military Programs	

Administrative support was provided by Cheryl Galli, Administrative Services Assistant.

UICC Course Realignment Review Guidelines
&
Review Schedule for AY 20- AY 23

Background

In 2015 the UICC adopted a policy for regular review of UNIV courses. A 3-year review cycle was recommended for the review of all UNIV courses. This policy distinguishes between courses that regularly offer multiple sections (Course Shells, e.g. UNIV 1800) and those that are taught only once or twice a semester (Individual Courses). The oversight requirements for the former is greater since it has to include consideration of qualifications and training of multiple instructors and consistency and comparability across what may be a large number of sections.

Course Alignment Purpose and Goals

Good teaching practice requires that faculty evaluate their courses on a regular basis to ensure the efficacy of the pedagogy and the currency of the material presented. Academic departments often develop policies and practices to assist faculty in doing this and to ensure that their curriculum in aggregate continues to meet the goals defined for their major(s). UNIV courses are offered by units outside of the schools and colleges, and part of the mission of UICC is to ensure that oversight of these courses follows best practices. Thus, courses undergo rigorous review at the time they are added to the curriculum and our policies require that units offering UNIV courses have faculty committees that are responsible for curricular oversight. This oversight should include periodic review of existing courses to ensure their continued efficacy, consistency among offerings and alignment with course goals as originally approved. This policy is intended to support the faculty curricular committees in performing these functions.

Administration of the Course Alignment process

In order to effectively manage the process:

- The Course Alignment review will be evenly spread out over a 3-year cycle (each year within the cycle referred to as a round);
- New courses that have been offered at least twice, but have not been reviewed in the previous 3 academic years will be added to each unit pool of courses to be reviewed.
- Typically, higher level (i.e. 3000 and 4000) level courses will be reviewed in Fall Semesters and lower level (i.e. 1000 and 2000) courses will be reviewed in Spring Semesters.

3-Year Course Alignment Schedule

A 3-year schedule that includes all units offering UNIV courses will been developed for each round.. The schedule will attempt to strike a balance in the number of courses to be reviewed as well as to spread the large number of shell course across the review period. Table 1 depicts the proposed schedule for the next five review cycles, starting from Academic Year:2020/2021 (AY:20/21)

Review Cycle	Duration	
	Start Date	**End Date**
1	AY:20/21 (Fall 20)	AY: 22/23 (Spring 23)
2	AY:23/24 (Fall 23)	AY: 25/26 (spring 26)
3	AY: 26/27 (Fall 26)	AY:28/29 (Spring 29)
4	AY: 29/30 (Fall 29)	AY: 31/32 (Spring 32)
5	AY: 32/33 (Fall 32)	AY:33/35 (Spring 35)

Other Alignment Guidelines and Protocols

1. Each Unit Head will be asked to identify a liaison who will communicate with the UICC Administrative Assistant and make alignment-related decisions. The Unit Head may choose to select him or herself as liaison. The Unit liaisons will be responsible for:

- Communicating with course instructors about deadlines and responsibilities and conveying any information sent by the UICC;
- Ensuring that the instructors of the selected courses submit the alignment forms completely and on time;
- Following up with the UICC Administrative Assistant regarding any questions or issues with the course alignment review process.

2. Once selected for alignment, a course may only be removed from consideration for the following reasons:

- The course was approved but never taught. (Units should consider archiving courses that have been dormant like this for more than 5 years unless it appears likely they may be taught in the near future);
- The only instructor who teaches the course is no longer with the unit. (Department representatives may be asked to select a replacement course if this is the case);

3a. Units offering shell courses with multiple sections/semester shall supply to UICC report for each course shell. This report will include:

- A listing of the offerings of the course for the academic year, including section title and instructor name and rank.
- A narrative description of how comparability across parallel offerings and consistency between repeat offerings of the course is achieved.
- Three representative syllabi from the course.

3b. Units offering individual courses shall supply to the UICC a copy of the syllabus for each offering of the course over that academic year. They will also report on any significant changes in the course since its approval by UICC.

Course Alignment Forms

- Applicable forms will be available for download at the UICC website (www.UICC.UConn.edu). Word document format of the forms will be mailed to instructors on request.
- The UICC Administrative Assistant will email responsible parties at the beginning of the semester with a request to submit relevant materials. The due date will be indicated within the request."

UNIV Course Realignment Review Schedule

Round 1: (AY20/21)		Round 2: (AY:21/22)		Round 3: (AY:22/23)	
Fall Courses					
Fall '20		***Fall '21***		***Fall '22***	
Course	**Offering Unit**	**Course**	**Offering Unit**	**Course**	**Offering Unit**
UNIV 4600	IISP	UNIV 3784	Honors Program	UNIV 2100	Center for Academic Programs
UNIV 4800	Student Affairs	UNIV 3820	FYE & LC	UNIV 2230	AACC
UNIV 3991	Career Services	UNIV 2600	IISP	UNIV 2500	Rainbow Center
Spring Courses					
Spring 21		***Spring '22***		***Spring '23***	
Course	**Offering Unit**	**Course**	**Offering Unit**	**Course**	**Offering Unit**
UNIV 1784	Honors Program	UNIV 1810	FYE & LC	UN IV 1991	Career Services
UNIV 1800	FYE & LC	UNIV 1840	FYE & LC	UNIV 2230	AACC
UNIV 1820	FYE &LC	UNIV 1981	Career Services	UNIV 1730	Honors Program

The UNIV Courses For Realignment Review (AY:20/21 to AY:22/23)

Offering Unit	Course Number	Course Title
First Year Programs and Learning Communities	UNIV 1800 UNIV 1810 UNIV 1820 UNIV 1840 UNIV 3820	FYE University Learning Skills FYE Learning Community Seminar First Year Seminar Learning Community Service-Learning Learning Community Advanced Seminar
Honors Program	UNIV 1730 UNIV 1784 UNIV 3784	Holster Research Proposal Development Freshman Honors Seminar Interdisciplinary Honors Seminar
Career Services	UNIV 1981 UNIV 1991 UNIV 3991	Documented Internship Supervised Internship Experience Interdisciplinary Internship Field Experience
Student Affairs	UNIV 4800	Senior Year Experience
Center For Academic Programs	UNIV 2100	Preparation for STEM Academic Research
African American Cultural Center	UNIV 2230	The PA^{2}SS Program, Mentoring African American Student
Q Center	UNIV 2300	Tutoring Principles for Quantitative Learning
Rainbow Center	UNIV 2500	Gender, Sexuality and Community
Individualized & Interdisciplinary Studies Program	UNIV 4600W	Capstone Course