

UCC Minutes
September 15, 2022

Members present: Kimberly Breitenbecher, Lisa Cuntz, Jeff Fox, Richard Fox, Tracy Freeman, Rudy Garns, Michael Guy, Hilary Landwehr, Kimberly Kattus, Terry Pence, Nicole Perrone, Sara Rung, Lindsey Walters, Shin Minchul, Laura Sullivan, Crystal Summers, Richard van Dyke, Andrea Watkins, Chris Wilkey, Bethany Noblitt

Members absent: Joe Cress, Bulent Erenay, Tonya Krouse Jonathan McKenzie, Tara McLendon , Jo Sanburg, Hallie Sylvestro, Danielle Todd, Jose Torres, Zach Well,

Liaisons and Visitors: Emily Detmer-Goebel (Dean's Office), Allen Cole (Registrar's Office), Kelsey Haskins (Admissions Office), Ndoye Abdou (VPUAA)

1. No changes to the minutes from 9/1/22
2. No chair report
3. Curricular items:
 - Creative Writing Minor --Change approved
 - Mass program change (EEET, MMET),
 - EGT 267, EGT 394, PHY 410

All items approved with an change for EGT 394: as follows: "EGT 394 may be taken for repeated elective credit as topics vary." to both the EEET and MMET catalog descriptions.

4. Old business: discussion of the focus definition
 - Fox's definition: A focus is 12 advanced hours separate from those of the student's major that either are of courses that share the same designator or are part of a major or minor in the catalog.
 - Garns' definition: A focus is defined as 12 credit hours at the 300/400/500 level in any approved major or minor program.
 - Pence's definition: A focus is defined as 12 semester hours 300 and above within a discipline or integrative Discipline or a Major or Minor
 - Allen Cole provided as reference the current Focus in Catalog now: A Focus is at least 12 semester hours in courses 300 and above in a discipline drawn from a Major
 - Issues: should a Focus be permitted to appear in the catalog? What about restrictions placed on courses taken in a major or minor like "C- or better"? Would Garns' definition impact transfer students who transfer in advanced hours that are not part of an existing major/minor?

Discussion

- Emily Detmer-Goebel asked if transfer students with 12 credit hours in linguistics would be able to call it a focus even if it's not a major or minor in the catalog? Allen pointed out Linguistics not on the list of 118 active focus areas already in the system.

- Allen noted that the top three Focus areas are: Psychology, Organization and Leadership and HSN. Emily asked if Allen could generate a list of all Focus areas.
- Hilary pointed out that using some of the WLL majors that a student could take four 300+ courses, none of which being a part of an actual language and yet call it a Focus in German or Spanish. Others noted that students in their majors could do the same, e.g., obtain a Biology Focus by taking 12 hours of Chemistry.
 - Richard asked all UCC members to look at the majors and minors in their departments to see if they similarly had enough 300+ electives whereby a student could obtain a focus in their major/minor with only taking 1 or no courses in the actual discipline.
 - Rudy pointed out that he has stricter guidelines for his Integrative Studies majors. As Rudy was a proponent of using already existing majors/minors, perhaps he could just change the wording of the Integrative Studies major from “Focus” to something else.
 - Emily Detmer-Goebel pointed out that the Focus is particularly important for returning students and transfer students and would support keeping it as open as possible. She also pointed out that requiring core courses for focus would make it difficult for returning or transfer students.
 - Approval for a Focus in the Degree Audit, Allen says currently proceeds through Major Program but that this will likely change to the department that offers the courses that make up the Focus. Members noted that this could present a challenge for students nearing graduation as they may have expected courses to count for a Focus that may not.

5. New business: none

6. Adjournment

Kattus, 9/18/22