
University Studies
North Carolina A&T State University
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Full Committee Meeting Apr 6, 2005 Minutes

The University Studies (UNST) Committee met on Wednesday Apr 6, 2005 in the Library Classroom at 10:00 AM. The following were present: Robert Davis, Sanjiv Sarin, Scott Simkins, Shirley Bell, Peter Meyers, Jean Williams, DeRome Dunn, Mark Kiel, Walthea Cobitz, Nita Dewberry, Shea Burns, Michael Roberto, Trent Larson, Tony Graham, John Kelly.

- I. Kiel pointed out some corrections to last meetings minutes: (a) in item VI a, replace “transfer out” by “transfer into or out”, (b) add the following to item VI d: “identifies each student’s selected theme and the student’s progress within the theme”.
- II. Davis and Sarin reported that they had delivered the UNST curriculum package to Dr. Highsmith-Quick, Chair of the Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee on April 5, 2005 (deadline for submitting packages to the Senate Committee). Deans and Chairs of all Schools/Colleges (except School of Business and Economics) have signed the cover sheets. The School of Business and Economics is currently deliberating on the proposal and its decision will be conveyed to the Senate Committee.
- III. *SOBE Concern: We should cross-list UNST courses with traditional courses in single disciplines to facilitate students who may transfer into or out of the university.* Sarin proposed the following “replacement guide” to facilitate transfer students and also one that A&T’s academic programs may use in restructuring their curricula. A motion to approve this was presented by Kiel and seconded by Kelly. The motion carried unanimously. Bell pointed out that we should remind academic units to review prerequisite requirements of upper division courses and correct them accordingly (for example, is a course requires ENGL 100 as a prerequisite, replace that prerequisite by UNST 110). Kelly urged that more details about the UNST courses be posted on the website to provide additional guidance to transfer student advisors. This was supported by all.

Current General Education Course	New UNST course
Freshman Seminar	UNST 100
ENGL 100	UNST 110
ENGL 101	UNST 210, 211, 212 or 213. One theme-based writing intensive course in each theme.
Global Studies, HIST 101	UNST 120
CHEM 100 (Physical Science)	UNST 130
African American Studies	UNST 140
Humanities/Social Science/Free Elective	UNST 2XX/3XX Cluster Theme elective
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Science/Math Requirement	Major Specified Courses
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- IV. *SOBE Concern: The cluster themes should be categorized into smaller groups with sets of courses within each group. One option may be to have 4 groups within each theme and students may be asked to take one course from each group. The groups could be based on the four overarching goals or “pillars” of the UNST program (communication, critical thinking, diversity, and civic*

engagement). While there was support for the idea of linking theme courses to certain overarching goals of the UNST program, it was felt by the committee that such structuring of the cluster themes could not be mandated and should be left to the theme committees to decide. After some discussion, it was agreed to return to this issue at the next meeting.

- V. *SOBE Concern: Extend the theme courses into the senior year and allow individual departments to introduce course(s) that satisfy one of the four theme course requirement.* Kiel proposed that academic units be allowed to restrict their majors to specific themes which may be more consistent with the student's career goals and educational objectives. The committee members felt that would be counter to the general education spirit of the program and disapproved the proposal. It was strongly felt that the 25 hours dedicated to the clusters (13 hours of foundation and 12 hours of theme courses) remain as a common experience to all students irrespective of their major. An additional 12 hours (9 hours of major specified courses and 3 hours of capstone experience) or about a third of the total UNST credit hours were already left to the discretion of the academic units (subject to some conditions). In response to the related issue of providing more flexibility to the academic programs in regards to placement of theme courses in curricula, Sarin proposed that academic units be allowed to place theme courses anywhere in their curricula as long as theme courses are taken AFTER all the Foundation courses and BEFORE the Capstone course/experience. A motion to adopt this passed unanimously.
- VI. *SOBE Concern: Ensure that the SIS system automatically monitors students in terms of their compliance with UNST requirements and identifies each student's selected theme and the student's progress within the theme.* The committee voted unanimously to obtain a formal commitment on this from VC Harrigan. We plan to invite VC Harrigan to the next meeting.
- VII. Twenty five (25) proposals have been received in response to the Call for Proposals for developing UNST courses in summer. A summary sheet listing all the course development proposals was shared with committee members.
- VIII. The next meeting of the full committee will be held on April 20, 2005.

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 AM.

Recorded by:

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