
University Studies
North Carolina A&T State University
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Full Committee Meeting Apr 20, 2005 Minutes

The University Studies (UNST) Committee met on Wednesday Apr 20, 2005 in the Library Classroom at 10:00 AM. The following were present: Robert Davis, Sanjiv Sarin, Scott Simkins, Shirley Bell, Jean Williams, DeRome Dunn, Mark Kiel, Walthea Cobitz, Shea Burns, Michael Roberto, Tony Graham, Perry Howard, Japhet Nkonge, Millicent Brown, Sandra Hicks, Crystal Cody-Connor, Mary Wall, Rita Lamb, Lea Williams.

- I. Davis reported that UNST curriculum package had been delivered to Dr. Highsmith-Quick, Chair of the Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee on April 5, 2005 (deadline for submitting packages to the Senate Committee). All Deans and Department Chairs of all Schools/Colleges have signed the cover sheets and the original signature sheets have been delivered to Dr. Highsmith-Quick. The Senate Curriculum committee has invited the UNST Committee Co-Chairs to present the proposal at 2:45 PM on Thursday April 21, 2005 in Merrick Hall, Room 200. Davis encouraged UNST committee members to attend the Senate Meeting on Thursday April 26, 2005 (Webb Hall Auditorium) to support the UNST package.
- II. There was some further discussion regarding the configuration of courses within each theme. The committee is currently considering a structure whereby each theme will have multiple sub-groupings of courses (grouped by clusters of learning objectives) and students will be required to select at least one course from each subgroup to ensure coverage of a broad coverage of the 17 learning objectives outlined for the University Studies program at the completion of the thematic cluster (12 credit hours).
- III. Davis briefly reported on his (and Sarin's) meeting on April 13, 2005 with VC Harrigan and Renee Martin concerning the automatic monitoring of students in terms of their compliance with UNST requirements, identification of each student's selected theme and the student's progress within the theme. VC Harrigan has agreed to attend our meeting in two weeks to provide some guidance in this area.
- IV. Sarin presented a summary of the proposals received in response to the Call for Proposals for developing UNST courses in summer. A total of 25 proposals were received involving faculty members from 7 units (6 schools/colleges and TCSS). Of these, 21 proposals involving 77 faculty members were funded.
- V. Based on a suggestion by Kiel, Sarin proposed a procedure for establishing themes. Based on input during the meeting, a revised version is presented below:
 - Any faculty member at the University can propose a theme for University Studies. The overall need and relevance of the theme should be described in a short paragraph (see similar statements for other themes for reference). In addition, a list of representative courses should be included. The theme should have a "theme committee" consisting of faculty members representing a variety of disciplines. The Theme Committee will be responsible for building the theme and generating interest in the theme. Finally, the theme statement needs to be presented to a joint meeting of the UNST Committee and the UNST Roundtable for approval.
 - Theme courses should not require any prerequisites other than the Foundation courses
 - Theme courses should be designed for placement in the curricula such that they are taken after all Foundation courses are taken but before the capstone course

- Each theme course should pay attention to the four overarching goals or “pillars” of the UNST program (communication, critical thinking, diversity, and civic engagement) and meet one or more UNST learning objectives
 - All courses in a theme will be open to all students on the campus
 - Developers of theme courses are encouraged to cross-list (or show equivalencies) with traditional university courses
- VI. Sarin reported that UNST Committee will be presenting an update at next week’s FUTURES Retreat and asked for volunteers to help make the presentation.
- VII. The next meeting of the full committee will be held on May 4, 2005.

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 AM.

Recorded by:
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